

Industrial Worker

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REPORT FROM THE FRONT LINES

How Flight Attendants Beat American Airlines

The Chicago Staley Worker Solidarity Committee recently held a forum and party to raise money and support for locked out chemical workers in Decatur Illinois. The well attended gathering raised almost \$4000 the evening unemployment insurance ran out for the 750 workers. Speakers from the Teamsters, AFSCME and Flight Attendants union joined Dan Lane of Local 837 AIW-UPIU in sharing stories from the front lines of the class war.

Alan Fahringer who served on the National Bargaining Committee of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (American Airlines) delivered a talk with more than a few lessons for union activists trying to build a labor movement. Fahringer focused on how a relatively passive membership became a strike winning union with 95% and better response to calls for actions of various kinds. The press, notes Fahringer, has called the Flight Attendants battle "PATCO in reverse." Perhaps, as PATCO sent a signal to the boss class of what was possible, the lessons of the Flight Attendants struggle, and well timed strike - Thanksgiving being a major travel week - can send a message to the rest of us about how much power we really do have through solidarity.

What follows is an edited transcript of Fahringer's remarks.

When Steve called he asked a question many others have since November 22nd, a date all American Airlines flight attendants will remember, that's the day that Bob Crandell finally called Uncle. Steve asked if we would explain to our good union brothers and sisters just how in the hell we did that. We told him, well, we're not really sure how. But we did some thinking about it since then.

We were so busy building up to the possibility of a strike or a breakdown in bargaining with Mr. Crandell and management at American Airlines, that we never really considered actually going on one. And when we went on one, we never



November 1993 - Flight Attendants celebrate

really considered the possibility of losing it, we just did it, almost unconsciously. So, the first tip is stay unconscious.

Let me tell you how we got to where we are. First of all we bargained with American Airlines for thirteen months, straight, very intense bargaining sessions, about 170 sessions. It went a lot like John (Teamsters - UPS) was talking about. We had one month of imposed work rules. Under the Railway Labor Act our contracts don't expire in the transport industry, they just become amendable. We continued to work under "to rule" but after a certain point in the process, I won't get into all the details, but the company can impose whatever their last offer was on the table after it breaks down, and that's exactly what they did. Well, mostly what they did. They cherry picked a few things, claimed they were on the table, but that's another speech.

We had a five day strike that you probably have heard about. What we're proudest of is that 21,000 Flight Attendants, that's how many (American Airlines) Flight Attendants there are, and that's how many members are in our independent union. Over 95% of those

Flight Attendants honored our strike. We have been called in the media, since the strike, PATCO in reverse, and I think that's true. And I think that that's why, (applause) yeah it makes me feel good too because that's when I started flying. I thought, man this might not have been such a good idea. But we would like to share with every union member, and everybody in this country who works for a paycheck, what we did, and how proud we are to be called PATCO in reverse. We couldn't have done what we did, frankly, without the Teamsters. We had sixty year old ladies, one per entrance, at the Chicago American Airlines cargo areas, and those little old ladies turned back those Teamster trucks. Isn't that amazing? We got some tough Flight Attendants. And we got a little help. Bill (Clinton) was kind of hurting from the whole NAFTA deal. I think he saw a good opportunity to stick up for labor, and with all the skill and all the preparation, a little timing, a little blind luck is not a bad thing to have in your favor either.

Where we're at now, is where we wanted to go at the very beginning, and that is to sit down with American since we

couldn't seem to agree to go to arbitration and let a neutral decide our differences for us. You may've heard Bob Crandell's press conference. You may've read some newspaper articles. They are not going to arbitration. They don't like arbitration. Arbitrators have a habit of splitting things down the middle, giving something to both sides, and that's a foreign concept to American management. Which explains why they are not very good at negotiating because that's the whole idea in the art of compromise. So then the whole world saw what we'd been up against for the thirteen months. What the world saw 24 hours later was Bob agreeing to arbitration. We liked that idea.

What I really came here to talk to you about is how we got to that point. Never mind Presidential intervention. How did we get 95% of 21,000 predominantly female, young, technically unskilled

How did we get 95% of 21,000 predominantly female, young, technically unskilled workers to lay a pretty darn good career on the line? A lot of what we did will apply to any union.

workers, "easily, replaceable workers", to lay a pretty good darn career, that's been deteriorating for 12 years now, on the line. I think some of what we did, although intrinsic to flight attendants and predominately female work forces in the airline business, I think a lot of it, will apply to any union. And if we are going to see the rebirth of the labor movement in this country, a lot of what we did, I hope you can take back to where ever you came from, and think about how you can make these concepts fit your local or your union or your work force.

The first thing we did is decided that we needed a campaign. That's not rocket

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War Zone Report

Locked Out Staley Workers Need Solidarity

Winter is starting to fade and so goes the harshness of the season. In like manner, in the WAR ZONE of Illinois, the winter has been difficult under locked-out conditions for Staley workers of UPIU/AIW Local 7837, formerly AIW Local 837. The picket lines have been assaulted by below normal conditions, with high winds, sleet, snow and bitter sub-zero weather. Under these adverse conditions and financial stress, the soldiers of UPIU/AIW 7837 continue to staff the battle lines with vigilance and apprehension. The setting is in Decatur Illinois and the perimeter is the picket stations around A. E. Staley/ Tate & Lyle PLC Manufacturing.

The winter helped focus the bitter reality that the multi-billion dollar London based company was not ready to negotiate a fair contract. Workers could only conclude that the company had not felt enough pain. The battle plan was re-

evaluated and it was clear that customer pressure needed to be escalated, continued denial of workers' financial support by not buying their products, and the moving forward with more activities on the picket lines.

Organizing in and around the community was one of the resolves of the appraisal. Tactics, similar to the Teamsters in Minneapolis in the 1930's, were used to communicate to workers. A message was handbilled at many manufacturing gates to let workers know, one on one, that we needed them and that "an injury to one" was truly "an injury to all."

With the introduction of the Spring Offensive and preparations for a long hot summer, workers responded enthusiastically. Nearly 600 showed up to hear about Union Busting tactics by Martin Levitt. A week later, hundreds joined locked-out Staley workers as they successfully shut

down traffic flow at the gates at shift change for approximately one hour. This shut down was done during rain, sleet and 40 mph winds.

On March 9 a lively demonstration of locked-out women workers, wives and children of locked out male workers, plus local clergy, brought a message to the picket line - "without justice, there can be no peace."

The Spring Offensive continues to move forward. An April 9th Solidarity March to commemorate Martin Luther King's dream of "a land where (humans) will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to a few."

It is critical that our fellow workers come to our financial aid. Locked out Staley workers receive \$60 per week and have not health care. It has always been Staley/ Tate & Lyle's intent to starve us out. After eight months of being locked

out, they have not succeeded, but our need is great. And growing. Please investigate how you, your union or organization, might help through "Adopt A Family" and or helping the food and assistance program.

Dan Lane
Local 7837 UPIU/AIW

For more information on how to help, write:

**Local 7837 UPIU/AIW
2882 N. Dinneen
Decatur IL 62526**

or call at 217-876-7006.

How You Can Help Build the Industrial Worker

"I like what you're doing with the IW," writes a reader/member. "So how can I help the IW grow?" For that reader and all of you who are reading this in spite of a headline that warned you this article is a plea for work and money:

Last year the IWW membership overwhelmingly endorsed a "growth plan" for the IW. More members are putting in more volunteer time and the union is backing that by making more of its extremely limited resources available.

In recent weeks we have set up an office in Chicago and moved some work to Madison Wisconsin where Wobblies at the Lakeside Press Coop are now taking care of subscriptions and distribution. All of this is a natural outgrowth of the past two years Ottawa Ontario based IW Collective. Things are going well from the people end.

Now we need support from our friends.

Mainstream media profits on ads. Alternative publishing needs help from its friends. Reader or member, revolutionary or unionist or revolutionary unionist, we need your help.

There are several ways you can help.

SEND MONEY

Donations big and small are welcome at the unions General Office (1095 Market #204 San Francisco CA 94103) where GST Robert Rush handles the money. FW Rush and local Wobs who help out in the office will make sure we get your name for inclusion in our Sustainers Box, which is our way of saying thank you. Make sure you note that your money is for the IW Sustaining Fund.

BUY SUBS FOR FRIENDS

If every one who reads this paper bought one extra sub we'd be doing all

right. How about buying a sub for a friend or co-worker who you know would appreciate it. There's a sub order blank elsewhere in this paper with a discount for giving two gift subs.

GET THE IW INTO STORES

Only the super market tabloids make their bucks on newstand sales but we're working on it. If you know of a bookstore that should carry the IW ask them to request it from their distributors.

As the Beatles sang:

We'll get by with a little help from our friends.

Grateful Thanks
to those who have contributed to the Industrial Worker project:

Harry Siitonen SF - MM IU
510 - Fred Lee England -
"General Strike" Costa
Mesa CA - Al SF - Libertarian Labor Review - Bear
& Bigfoot - Art Kazar IL -
San Francisco GMB -
Winnipeg GMB - Lyle
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Southeast Michigan GMB

IWW DIRECTORY

Job Shop= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 120: Forest Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area Group- Del: Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

VICTORIA

Melbourne Area Group-POB 1738Q GPO Melbourne, 3001.

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

IU120 Aardvark Sawmill Job Shop/ SEBC Group-POB 54, Balfour V0G 1C0. David Everest 604/229-4978

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB - B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB-POB 4217 Stn E, K1S 5B2. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>

Toronto Group-11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

UNITED KINGDOM

GOC British Isles/IU620 Contact F.Lee, Secular Hall 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. Tel:0533-661835

IU610 Contact: Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Ctr, 16 Old Foundry Rd., Ipswich IP4 2DU

IU660 Contact: Ray Carr, 22 Brunswick Square, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5QF

Swindon Region GMB/ IU670 Contact: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman St. Swindon, SN2 1HA; Tel: 0793-610707.

Stuart Croft, Box A, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford. Davey Garland, Box 23, 5 High St. Glastonbury Somerset.

York-D. Czunys, 13 Wolsley, Y01 5BQ.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

IU330 Custom Wood Screen Doors - Paul Kay, 606 Alamo Pintado #3262, Solvang 93463 (805) 688-0123

IU660 Time Tested Books- 1114 21st St, Sacramento 95814. 916/447-5696

Mendocino GMB Judi Bari POB 656 Willits 95490 707/468-1660. Herb Jager, 114 E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437. 707/937-3457.

San Diego Group- RMR Kroopkin, 2675 Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon, CA 92020. 619/460-2907

Santa Cruz GMB-PO Box 534, 95061 <sciww@ucscb.ucsc.edu>

IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 (510)549-0176

IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers- 620 Eshleman B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener

IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop - M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1136 Arbor Dell Rd. 90041.

IU630 Film Workers -Miguel Sanchez, 1724 Westmoreland LA 90006 (213)368-4604

Sea Dive Job Shop-Colin Dewey, 138-A Noe St San Francisco 94114. 415/487-1751. <patrice@crl.com>

SF Bay Area GMB-1095 Market St. #204, 94103 415/863-WOBS iww@igc.apc.org

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop- 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

Denver/Boulder GMB-2412 E. Colfax, 80206. Ofc hrs Sat. 9-12. (303)388-1065 Meets 1st Thurs. 7pm. Del: Cliff Sundstrom 910 E. 8th Av. #202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

FLORIDA

J. Lewis, 345 Ocean Dr. #1103, Miami Beach 33139

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group-340 Elmira Pl, 30307. 404/524-1243

HAWAII

Oahu Group-POB 11928, Honolulu 96822 Tel: 808/247-8584. <annies@igc.apc.org>

IDAHO

Boise Group-W. Cohan, PO Box 822, Caldwell ID 83606.

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB-4043 N. Ravenswood #205 60613. (312)549-5045. Mt. 1st Fri. 7:30pm.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group-Steve Donahue 729 Bungalow Ln 70802. (504)389-9572.

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB-R. Bey, Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie 21060. 301/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC - Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609

MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB/IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop-Albert Parsons (313)769-0695; Michael Kozura 7252 Kendal, Dearborn 48126. (313)581-2065

IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop-4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Group - Box 2391, Loop Stn, 55402. (612)339-5002
Duluth Group-1514 N. 8th Avenue E, 55805. Del: Jack Rosenquist

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group-C.G. Streuly 601/896-3515

MONTANA

Butte-Mark Ross 111 W. Quartz 59701. (406)782-4465

NEVADA

Tahoe Group- Larry Steinberg, PO Box 1114 Dayton 89403. (702)246-3120

NEW JERSEY

Paterson Group-POB 8532 Haledon 07508. Matt Bolton 201/790-3076

NEW YORK

IU 620 Education Workers Organizing Bulletin/Central NY Group- PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045 jbekken@igc.apc.org

IU630 Living Theatre Job Shop-POB 20180, NYC, 10009-8959. (212)865-3234

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776

Capital District Group-POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627

NYC GMB-Del: Brian Mahoney 1717 N. Thompson Dr, Bay Shore NY 11706 516/586-2103; Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

PENNSYLVANIA

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop-Tina Gaffney (215)821-5622

Lancaster Group-PO Box 2084, 17608

Lehigh Valley GMB-POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 (215)253-5057 J. Kelly (215)866-5728.

Reading Group-PO Box 8468, 19603. Del: Dennis Good (215)921-2459; Rick Page (215)562-3487

Philadelphia GMB/ IU450 Duplicators Network- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. (215)747-0855.

IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop-112 S. 20th St. 19103. (215) 569-2477. <ulrike@templevm.bitnet>

IU620 Temple University IWW Group-2106 N. Broad St. 19122. Anthony Newkirk (215)765-3511.

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop-Merl Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

Austin Group - PO Box 49523, 78765. 512/416-9619

UTAH

Salt Lake Group - Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

VERMONT

Burlington Group- Anne Petermann, Orin Langlelle POB 804, 05402. (802)658-2403. <peacejustice@igc.apc.org>

WASHINGTON

IU450 Street of Crocodiles Letter Press Job Shop- PO Box 20610, Seattle 98102. 206/726-5924

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop-1115 Railroad Av. Bellingham 98225.

Industrial Transportation Project -Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464

Industrial Environmental Toxicology Project-POB 20402, Seattle 98102. Stan Anderson 206 367-0477 <helchick@mead.u.washington.edu>

WEST VIRGINIA

Delegate- Rick Wilson, 1019 2nd St. W., Huntington 25701

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow

Madison GMB-Box 2605, 53701. (608) 255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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Humor & Cartoons: Wage Slave, PO Box 1217, Madison WI 53701 huckkono@igc.apc.org

Toxics Project: PO Box 20402, Seattle WA 98102 (206)367-0477 helchick@mead.u.washington.edu

Canadian Labor, Video & Music Reviews, Womens Issues: PO Box 4217, Stn E, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B2 Canada (613)231-2922 indwrk@web.apc.org

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Around Our Union

Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Information Wanted

DRUG TESTING IN PRIVATE WORKPLACES

"You leave the 'Bill of Rights' at the factory gate," is the status quo in the US. Free speech and privacy rights that are supposed to protect us from government intrusion and police excess simply don't exist in the workplace.

Mandatory drug testing therefore is "legally" limited in publicly funded and government workplaces but not where the ownership is private. We are looking for information about resistance, legal or grass roots, to mandatory drug testing in privately owned workplaces.

Responses from lawyers, workers, and unionists are welcome.

If you can help, please respond to the Salt Lake City IWW GMB at PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514 and/or to the Industrial Worker at 4043 N. Ravenswood, Chicago IL 60613 (by email: jditz@igc.apc.org) or leave a message at 312-549-5045.

Wobbly Networks

Duplication Workers Network

Workers in 24 hour, high volume, high turnover, copy shops are underpaid and overworked while the bosses bank billions. A new network of Duplication Workers is taking shape across the country and has begun sharing information about working conditions and workers responses.

The network can be reached at IU450 Duplicators Network, 4722 Baltimore Ave, Philadelphia PA 19143 or by calling 215-747-0855.

Education Workers Network

Workers in the education industry are being sped up, forced in to part-time work, and underpaid. Underfunded public school systems break down, our children get under-educated for the low wage future, while the master class trains its kids to rule. Television and commercialism invade the classroom while working class history is hidden from working class children.

Recent years have seen an increase in organizing among educational workers of all types. Want to know more? The IWW Education Workers network can be reached at IWW, PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045

Industrial Environmental Toxicology Network

It is we as working people who are hurt first and most by the poisons and processes of capitalism. We live downstream from the factory, we breath the fumes in the offices. Workers struggling to bring ecological concerns into the workplace, injured workers struggling to get health care and compensation should contact the IWW Industrial Environmental Toxicology Project at: IWW PO Box 20402, Seattle WA 98102 or by calling 206-367-0477 or via email: helchick@mead.u.washington.edu

"Defamation of Character" Alleged

SLAPP-ed By Bingo Boss

For the past year and a half, organizers from the IWW have been helping workers at Boulevard Bingo Hall in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to form a union. Bingo Hall owners have responded with a massive illegal union-busting effort, and have attempted to intimidate workers and organizers. So far, the IWW has filed over 125 unfair labor practice charges against the owners of Boulevard Bingo.

In his latest attempt to weaken the union and deny these workers their legal right to organize, Boulevard Bingo owner Joseph Fillman, president of Allied Air Force (a supposedly non-profit group which supposedly repairs old airplanes) has filed a SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against IWW organizer Lenny Flank, Jr. The suit charges defamation of character over newspaper articles which have appeared concerning the union effort at the bingo hall. Allied Air Force is seeking over \$1.2 million in damages.

The bingo boss is most upset about a headline in the local daily paper following an NLRB ruling against the boss. The boss claims "defamation" because the headline could lead one to think he'd violated criminal law instead of labor law. The boss' lawyers will have a great

time arguing that Flank as a person interviewed in the article must have snuck into the newspaper and written the headline.

Flank says, "This is just the latest stupid thing the boss has done. He can't beat us and he won't distract us."

Although this lawsuit is groundless, Fellow Worker Flank is still forced to prepare a legal defense. Flank, a volunteer organizer for the union who has been unemployed for 6 months, is now faced with the financial burden of defending himself against a frivolous lawsuit. SLAPP's depend for their intimidating effect on the fact that companies have lots of money to hire lawyers, while activists have no money to defend themselves.

IWW Organizer Lenny Flank needs your help. Your contribution to the Lenny Flank Legal Defense/Offense Committee will enable Lenny and the IWW to continue their efforts to protect the rights of workers to organize, and to resist the boss's latest attempts at intimidation.

Please send donations to:
Lehigh Valley IWW
PO Box 4133
Bethlehem PA 18018

Thank you for your support.

our class solidarity is our strength

May Day Greetings
Southeastern Michigan GMB

GO UNION!

MAY DAY GREETINGS

in memory of

Phil Mellman
Richard Ellington
and Tom Savage

San Francisco Bay
Area GMB

New Pragmatism Hits South African Unions

As South Africa moves toward its first multiracial elections, many workers are concerned that their unions are becoming too closely aligned to political parties. The 1.3 million member Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is part of a tripartite alliance with the African National Congress and the Communist Party, and 20 Cosatu leaders recently stepped down in order to stand for election on the ANC ticket.

Although Cosatu was organized on the basis of political independence and workers control over their unions, there are strong pressures on the union federation to moderate its positions in order not to scare away conservative voters and international financiers. Thus former Cosatu general secretary (now ANC official) Jay Naidoo told businessmen recently, "We do see foreign investment as critical in developing our economy." Naidoo, sixth on the ANC's national list for the April elections, was answering a question on ANC policy on the repatriation of dividends while addressing a breakfast for leading businessmen in Johannesburg.

He said the same conditions and laws should apply to both foreign and domestic investment. Naidoo also said that while the ANC continued to favor nationalization of the mining industry, "I must stress that this, along with all our policy proposals, will not be implemented unilaterally... The management and marketing of our mineral exports must be examined together with employers, unions and the government to ensure maximum benefits for our country." Naidoo conceded that as a result, "we are going to see a decline in the number of people working in mines."

Thus, this long-time unionist turned politician is committed to a policy of encouraging capital investment, and to the layoffs, pay cuts and other attacks on workers' living standards and working conditions that necessarily implies. Similarly, Cosatu's new general secretary, Sam Shilowa, has said the union federation hopes to work with business "to develop a broad national consensus" on economic policy. Another measure of this conciliatory posture is the strike index—in 1993 the strike rate fell for the first time in years, and most strikes were against the government rather than employers.

Other union federations are not in a position to defend workers' interests against these cross-class alliances. The black-led National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) is much smaller than Cosatu (327,000 members) and riven by internal dissension. The predominantly white Federation of South African Labour Unions calls for constitutional guarantees for the "right to private property," and argues that black workers make lower wages because they are less skilled. The small Inkatha-aligned United Workers Union of South Africa (Uwusa) functions essentially as a company union.

However, many Cosatu members remain committed to an independent strategy. The National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa), one of Cosatu's largest affiliates has called for an end to the Alliance and for an independent, class-based strategy. But there are problems in Numsa as well—the union's Jetmaster local tired of grievance sessions to defend "irresponsible" workers and so has now created a union disciplinary committee to deal with absenteeism, drinking and similar problems itself.



France Heats Up

In February fishing workers protested low cost imports, in March tens of thousands of Paris unionists marched against unemployment and hundreds of French youths smashed shop windows and hurled rocks at riot police during a protest against government plans to establish a subminimum wage for young workers. At least 15 demonstrators were arrested in the second round of protests against the government's plan to cut wages by 20 percent. "Equal work, equal pay," demonstrators chanted. "No division between generations. The government is seeking negotiations on the minimum wage with union and student groups; while also moving to implement more repressive laws and make violent tactics available to the police."

WORLD UNEMPLOYMENT WORST SINCE DEPRESSION

Nearly one out of three workers in the world's labor force either has no job or is earning too little to live decently, the International Labor Organization reports. The United Nations organization calls the situation "the worst global employment crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s." The ILO said 120 million people are registered as unemployed around the world and millions more are either tired of looking for work or never bothered to register.

"Practically half of the 35 million unemployed workers in Western Europe have been off the employment rolls for a year or more," Michel Hansenne, ILO director general, said in a statement. His report estimates another 700 million are underemployed, earning less than needed to support a minimum standard of living.

The World Bank found that the average Ethiopian, for example, earned the equivalent of \$150 Canadian in 1992. According to UN figures, the average income of the world's 5.5 billion people may have fallen slightly in 1993 for the fourth year in a row.

Both industrial and developing countries face persistent, long-term unemployment. Spain's unemployment rate of 22.7 per cent was the worst among industrial countries in 1992, while Japan was among the best at 2.5 per cent.

General Strike Topples Regime

Government workers toppled the Bophuthatswana "homeland" government in a general strike after its South Africa-installed military dictator refused to permit campaigning for South Africa's upcoming elections. Workers were also concerned that their pension funds were being stolen. When armed white vigilantes came to the dictator's defense, Bophuthatswana troops joined the rebellion, sending the gun thugs running with their tails between their legs.

Wildcat strikes began in the territory's health service, post and telecommunications service, the Babelagi industrial area and the Bophuthatswana Electricity Corporation. Teachers in the "homeland" then joined the strike demanding salary increases and pension payouts.

S. African Unionist Killed

Letsatsi Mosala, a founder and leading member of AZAPO and of the Black Allied Mining & Construction Workers Union, was gunned down as he was driving out of his garage in Soweto on February 13. According to witnesses two gunmen drove up to his house, dragged Mosala from his car, and then shot him dead.

Argentine Pensioners Protest

Argentinean pensioners carried out their 100th demonstration in Buenos Aires March 3. Some 10 000 people joined the retirees' protest in front of Argentina's parliament. For two years now the retired workers have been demanding a raise of their monthly pensions of US\$140. When police attacked the demonstrators, some 30 civilians and 20 policemen were reportedly injured with dozens of arrests. The US ambassador to Argentina, who was heading for a meeting with the Economy Minister, was forced to seek shelter in a government building amidst a shower of rocks hurled by protesters. The pensioners have been protesting every Wednesday, often times hurling rotten eggs and vegetables at Argentinean parliamentarians.

Government Work Under Ban

The General Workers Union of Malta members are refusing to handle any goods or equipment "connected" with the government as part of their resistance to privatization schemes. Government utility bills are not being processed, and on January 25th harbor pilots and dockworkers refused to handle the ship Parnassus which was carrying coal for a government-operated power station.

Russia

Miners Strike

In one of the largest labor protests seen in Russia in years, an estimated 600,000 coal industry workers struck March 1 to demand payment of back wages and new government subsidies. Work ceased for 24 hours at as many as 80 percent of Russia's coal mines and open cuts.

The Independent Union of Miners (NPG) coordinated its actions with the "traditional" Independent Union of Coal Industry Employees (NPRUP). The NPG is the standard-bearer of Russia's small but widely publicised "free" trade union movement, most of whose member unions have until now given vocal support to President Boris Yeltsin.

Not only were the divisions in the miners' movement challenged on March 1, but the demands raised by union activists often had a political edge. Although union leaders in Moscow insisted that the strike was limited to economic issues, numerous strike committees in the Sakhalin, Kuzbass, Vorkuta and Rostov coal basins demanded that the government resign and that Yeltsin call early presidential elections.

The decision to call the March 1 strike came as miners realised that the Russian government's policies did not include prompt payment of state debts to coal enterprises, or providing the coal industry with the grants it needs to keep operating. State debts to the coal industry now total about 500 billion rubles (US\$290

million). The finance ministry has reportedly agreed to provide subsidies to the coal industry in 1994 of 5.6 trillion rubles (US\$3.2 billion). But industry economists put the minimum necessary sum at 11.9 trillion rubles (\$6.8 billion).

If this is not provided, Independent Union of Coal Industry Employees leader Vitaly Budko says, the price of a ton of coal, which now ranges from 10,000 to 30,000 rubles, will have to be raised to 94,000 rubles. Even at existing prices, many of the industry's customers have been unable to pay for coal deliveries, and have built up vast debts to coal enterprises.

For many rank and file miners, the government's position amounts to a sentence of slow starvation. Unless state debts are paid and subsidies increased, wage payments will remain months overdue. Many miners still have not been paid for work performed in December and are living in acute poverty. The situation is particularly desperate in remote districts such as Vorkuta, where there is little alternative employment and both husbands and wives often work for coal enterprises.

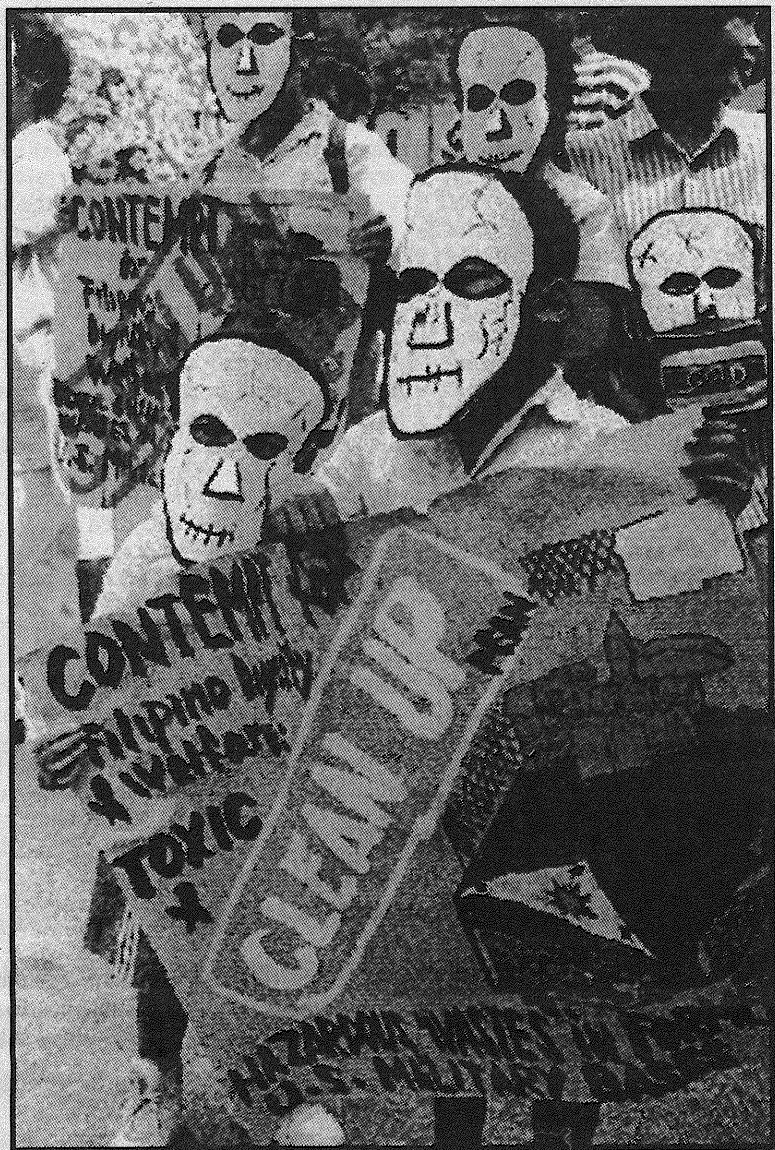
Miners are also alarmed by the fact that the promised subsidies will not be enough to maintain acceptable levels of safety. In the Rostov coal basin in southern Russia, miners are complaining that their work has become more dangerous as coal enterprises have been unable to pay for timber needed for pit-props.

MAYDAY SALUTE TO:

**The People of Chiapas
for Disrobing the
Emperors
of World Capital**

from Harry Siitonen San Francisco Bay Area GMB

The Union Struggle has No Borders



Philippines – Protest calling for US to clean up toxic wastes at former military bases.

GERMAN Sozialabbau Social Demolition

1993 was the year when everyone in Germany spoke about "Sozialabbau," social demolition. German state and Federal governments continued at increased speed to take the welfare out of the welfare state, and companies continued to lay off workers. The so-called Social Market economy is being transformed into a Market economy with social aspects reduced to a minimum. From July 1 1994 the govt plans to cut "bad weather" payments to building workers. October's national building workers demo in Bonn was attended by over 100,000 workers.

Employers are cutting the number of paid holidays. Cuts, closures and elimination of social welfare programs such as unemployment, pensions and abortion rights are taking place. The Free Workers Union (FAU) has been active in informing people about the effects of these changes, through the paper Direkte Aktion and protests and demos.

Unemployment rose to a post war record of 3.7 million (8.1%). The real level is already over 4 million. The main trade union federation, DGB had the worst year since its foundation in 1949. Over 1.25 million union members have left since 1991, that is 10.8% of the 1991 membership. In some individual unions the reduction is even higher. Layoffs in some industries are partly responsible, but many workers chose to leave the unions. As money from membership dues has gone down, the unions have announced reductions in paid staff working. However, we expect the people who lose their jobs will be the office staff, secretaries and local officials, not the very well paid bureaucrats at the top.

The workers occupation of the Bischofferode potash plant ended on Jan 1 when the European Union (EEC) gave the go-ahead for BASF subsidiary Kali & Salz AG to take over the Thuringen based MDK (Middle German Potash) company. Many workers will get replacement jobs in a state-run Mines Maintenance & Conversion company, cleaning up, fixing and taking apart the many mines and mine related plants closed down in the last years. Others accepted places in a job creation project. Those who wish to do neither will get redundancy payments based on length of service. Payments will be higher than normally offered, showing that the struggle was not completely wasted.

4 DAY WEEK: Volkswagen introduced the 4 day week to parts of their car production. In practice, this means about 25% fewer working hours. The gross monthly pay remains the same but benefits like Christmas bonus and holiday pay have been cut. Real wages could be between 18% and 20% less. The union, IG Metall, who agreed to the deal say it is only 10%. VW hopes to reduce labor costs by 20%. There will naturally be pressure to increase productivity per work hour. The working week will not in practice be 4 days, because the 28.8 hours will be an average throughout the year, and flexible worktimes will be introduced to suit the needs of the company. There are threats of 31,000 job losses (out of 104,000 German employees) in the coming years.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & VIEWS

CHIAPAS HAS REVEALED THE TRUTH Striking Mexican Teachers Join Upsurge, Need Solidarity

To the First World's teachers and professional educators, to the workers in the United States, Canada and Europe:

As representatives of the Academic Personnel of the principal institution of agriculture educational of our country, the Universidad Autonoma Chapingo, we appreciate your attention to our present situation.

We are on strike since the 15th February as a result of the current government policies that have negatively affected the majority of the population's income. Formerly the National School of Agriculture, our institution was the education expression of the social reforms the Mexican Revolution intended for the rural areas. At present our university does technical and scientific research as well as prepares professionals for the development of Mexican agriculture. As has been dramatically known since the beginning of this year, the situation of misery and social despair in the rural areas are extremely contrasting to the image the Mexican Government has tried to sell abroad.

Unfortunately it has been necessary to have the armed uprising in Chiapas for the world to ponder the so-called "assets" of the Salinista economical policies and those of his immediate predecessors. It is at last internationally known how the Mexican people have become impoverished under the government's neo-liber-

alistic trends, reaching states of misery not seen since the forties, before the first "Mexican Miracle" of the stabilizing development. These policies have hit the working classes during more than ten years. Although it has done its maximum damage on those who had very little and dropped from poverty to misery, it has nonetheless reduced the buying capacity of all who have only their labor force to make a living. In this sense the salaries of public higher education workers have been reduced more than 60% in the last 10 years and have caused dozens of technicians and scientists formed under public education to migrate either to private institutions or to foreign countries.

This, together with the reduction of economical resources, has gradually but constantly reduced the nation's educational heritage. It is possible that this aspect of the Salinista policies is not widely known. Yet for the construction of a fair society, where welfare should reach all sectors of the population, it is crucial that the formation of new career men and women has a continuous and armonic development. Nevertheless, the Mexican Government has given up on trying to have a scientific and technological autonomus development. It is endangering the future of the Mexican people by cancelling the possibilities of generating our own appropriate solutions to urgent technical, social, economic and cultural problems. Even the official Banco de

Mexico analysts have accepted the disastrous reduction of real income for the majority of the population. Notwithstanding the failure of the regime's economic policies, their answer still refuses a wage recuperation. We are offered an increase of 5%. It is this that has driven us, together with other organizations of the same kind, to make use of our legal rights and declare a strike since 11 P.M. on the 15th. of February. The responsibility for what damages may come from this therefore falls on, the official authorities that have enforced the austerity programs in an unshamefully fashion to favor speculative capital.

We ask you, to please make the situation we are going through known among your colleagues and inside your unions. We would also appreciate your support to the solution of our conflict by writing letters to both the media in your locality as in Mexico, and to our diplomatic representatives in your country. It had been standing on the workers backs that the government had created the illusion of a healthy economy and the magic of publicity had managed to fool worldwide opinion. But Chiapas has unveiled the truth. We as workers for higher education add our voice to the general outcry.

Profesor Carlos Guzman Acevedo,
Secretario General, Faculty Association
Universidad Autonoma Chapingo

FORD WORKERS STRIKE

More than 600 workers at the Ford Motor Company plant in Chihuahua, Mexico walked off the job February 9 after failing to win a 10 percent wage increase. Ford has offered a 5 percent increase and a 2 percent productivity bonus. Juan Jose Sosa Arreola, general secretary of the union, said they rejected Ford's offer because the company's financial position allows it to award increases of more than 10 percent. The strike threatens to spread to other Ford plants in Sonora and the State of Mexico.

Meanwhile, several U.S. labor unions filed a complaint against General Electric and Honeywell for violating worker rights in Mexico. The Teamsters Union and the United Electrical and Radio Workers Union (UE) filed a formal complaint with the U.S. office in charge of monitoring NAFTA labor provisions. The Labor Department's National Administrative Office will review allegations that GE and Honeywell fired workers for trying to organize unions in maquiladora factories along the U.S.-Mexico border. "The heart of our complaint is GE's attack on the right to organize (in Mexico)," said Robin Alexander, UE's director of international affairs. The Authentic Workers Front, an independent Mexican labor federation, supported the complaint. The Teamsters and UE will ask for public hearings in Mexico to explore their complaints.

How the Flight Attendants Beat American Airlines

— from page 1 —

science, labor has always done that. But we decided that our group had never been really pro-union. It is not in the profile of a flight attendant. They hire smiley, subservient, service oriented, "I don't want to fight, I want to get you a coke and some chicken" kind of people. "And I'll listen to you yell at me and bitch at me, and no I didn't make it snow, but you can give it all to me if you want, that's my job". Given that mentality we had a real problem in helping these people believe that they could take on the likes of the biggest, baddest guy in the airline business, Bob Crandell. They didn't think they could do it. We weren't sure.

We started one year before we ever sat down at the bargaining table and developed a campaign. We were even afraid to use the word solidarity, because solidarity is a union term. Flight Attendants don't like unions, they don't want to like unions. They want to be nice, and "the company signs my paycheck, and they wouldn't really lie to me would they"? You can see where we started. But we had already been elected, we couldn't quit.

We started what we called the "Unity Pays" campaign. We had a logo designed. An identifying device straight out of the business books; marketing. Give somebody multiple impressions. Let them get used to seeing something, and they will come to believe in it. You and I won't buy anything until we've been "impressed" five times. We started with the logo and a slogan.

Then we decided to give importance to what we were doing. We separated negotiations from everything else that was going on with the union. We did not include what we had to say about negotiations in our normal union publications. It was all on its own. We had a separate book called "Negotiations Update". And once a month, starting a year before we opened negotiations, we started telling what the issues were. We started teaching them. They didn't even read it the first time. They probably didn't read it the second time. They might have read part of it the third time. They might have read most of it the fourth time. But when they saw it over and over, they not only became used to it, they started to understand it, and eventually they started to support it.

It's like the guy who sells you a car. Half the thing that he's trying to do is get you to hang out at the car lot for 2 or 3 hours, because if he can, you feel so invested that you got to buy the damn car. It's giving you ownership of the process, and then if you walk away you feel like you're cheating yourself. So we wanted to do that with the Flight Attendants. They told us they were reading the newsletter, but we weren't really sure, because what else are they going to tell you if they ask them? You're a negotiator, "Oh, I read the 'Update', every bit of it. When did it come out?" So we thought, okay, let's ask them to do something real simple.

If you have ever flown you know that flight attendants love to wear buttons. "I Support The Teamsters", "We're Flying To Hawaii Next Month", any button can get on their collar. So we asked them to take them off. We asked them to only wear their flight attendant's wings and their union pin. We called it the Pins and Wings campaign. And we thought, well, if they don't do this, at least we know how deep we are.

It worked. People started doing it. Then the peer pressure started. And we just told them flat, "If you can't do this, how do you expect us to negotiate for you. This is the least you can do for yourself." So the tip I'm giving you is to start with something easy. And we did it, and it grew and it grew, from peer pressure. It grew to the extent that American Airlines management sent the president of our union a very, very nasty letter. It said, "Quit doing this"! We pointed out to them that it was their own rule, Rule 17, "You can wear wings, a name tag, and your union pin". We didn't receive any more letters about that. And it started working. It showed the Flight Attendants that you were part of the solution, not the problem, if you wore your pins and wings.

Now, there was backlash to this. We had many, many phone calls. My associate, Eric Bergman and I took a lot of the calls, since we were on the communications end of the process. Flight Attendants calling up asking "Is this all you

got? Pins & Wings? If this is your negotiating strategy, we're in deep you know what". It was hard to explain how this was going to get us to where we wanted to go.

We went from "Pins & Wings" to "Return To Sender". This may be foreign to you, but our company likes to negotiate straight with the membership. It's against the rules. The company claims they don't do it, but they bypass the negotiating team and propagandize Flight Attendants relentlessly. So we started the "Return To Sender" program. We asked 21,000 Flight Attendants, "Whenever you get something in your mail box at work or something at home, simply mark on it, 'Return To Sender, My Negotiating Team Speaks For Me', and put it back in the damn mail box. It will cost them \$2.25 when it comes back, and it will send the company a message. And the Flight Attendants did it, by the truck load. It gave the Flight Attendants ownership of the process. And it still didn't hurt. We were getting them used to doing things with no threat.

Then we started a process to reward the people who didn't really want to be union reps, "Oh, you're with the union right?" If I had a dollar for every time someone said that to me in the last 12 years.... So, we thought, how do we make them in the union but not with the union? You know they don't want to be a union rep, they want to be a Flight Attendant, but how can we get them a little closer to us? Meet us half way.

We started the "Info Rep" program. This is our union pin. This kind of arrow head thing. We designed another pin with a circle around it. Same pin, just a different designation. And if you were an "Info Rep" then Flight Attendants that got on the plane knew that you got special mailings. We didn't tell the attendants that we just couldn't afford to send 21,000 of everything out. We only sent 2,000. We called it the "Info Rep" program instead of the "We Don't Have Enough Money" program. And it worked. And these "Info Rep" people became our eyes and ears on the line.

So when Flight Attendants came up to them, and said "Oh, you're an 'Info Rep', well, so what's going on?". All of a sudden, they are like "Shit, this is cool". Well, I know what's going on, let me tell you!" And we gave them a separate hotline. You even had to have a pin number to get in. Access, you had to be cool to be an "Info Rep". And so it made the Flight Attendants want to be "Info Reps" You're laughing. But remember what we got.

Then we did something that was also innocuous in and of itself. But everybody is talking about it now. We gave the Flight Attendants luggage tags. We called them the "Unity Pays" luggage tags. We put the logo on it. We gave them something to involve themselves. They had to put the tag together, and insert the cards into it. And when we told them to, turn the cards around. We had four cards in there, and they were each a different color. So when you saw 50,000 bags in operations somewhere, you saw all blue, or all orange, or all green, or all white. When we started the process we gave them a white one first. It said, "Make Unity Pay By Labor Day". We picked a "false-deadline" sort of. We knew we could go out front and say we want a contract by Labor Day. Labor Day was still a long way off at this point. The company of course agreed. How could they not agree? The company had to say "Well, of course we do, too". And the company didn't realize that they were setting themselves up.

We sent it out to 21,000 Flight Attendants so they put them on their bags. They had to put them together. A little spaghetti strap and the cards. Then, at designated times, we gave a master phone call to our special "Info Reps", who started a phone tree. And our goal was called "21,000 In 24 Hours". We told the "Info Reps" way up front that, "when we call you at significant times during the process, when we want you to show the company, this doesn't hurt, you can't get in trouble for it, all we want you to do when we tell you to is turn the cards around". So they all went from white to another color. By the third time it happened in about 12 hours. It spread like wild fire. But again ownership. The Flight Attendants got the call. They felt good. The "Info Reps" were talking to them. They got involved in phone tree committees, and they turned

the stupid tags around. And all over the system, Boom, just like that, a different color was there. Now they were thinking "You know what, we can do this. Everybody's listening". The company didn't want the luggage tags either by the way. They didn't like them at all. But in the contract it says that you can have an identifying device on your luggage. We used the company rules to beat the company.

We did some traditional things. We had some union meetings, like this, only remember these are Flight Attendants, they have traveled all over the world. Most of them are of the TV generation. Flight Attendants don't want to go to a union meeting, they want to go see videos and slide shows. So we gave them videos and slide shows. Which made a meeting real easy. We didn't screw up, because we got to do it on video tape until we got it right. Then we just sat there while it was playing and we looked great. The first meeting we had about 4,000 out of 21,000. Remember that 7,000 are in the air and unavailable on any given day. The second meeting we had, months later, about 7,000 plus people. The last meeting we had, a satellite hook-up, all across the country, that went on simultaneously, we had almost 12,000 out of a possible 14,000 Flight Attendants at the rally. That's good attendance, folks!

Then we did some things in the media, because the public, we're union members here, we can talk straight, right? The public knows that we're all greedy. We're what's wrong with this country. We're stealing all the damn money. "The reason



there's no damn jobs is because those overpaid union people..." You know this rap, right? So we wondered, how can we show them that that's a crock? How can we show them that this is everyone's fight? If the Flight Attendants at American win, everybody wins. Union members set the wages for the whole country. So you ought to root for us, because we're fighting for the fact that you don't get paid much either. If we win, you win, and you didn't do nothing. But we couldn't say it just like that. So we looked for better ways to say this.

We started a campaign in the media where we were very nice. Which is what Flight Attendants do best, remember? We told the public that we weren't greedy. We told them we only make \$14,000 a year to start. We told them that we work long hours. We showed the facts, and we distributed information. And we won their hearts over. We told them that we were going to go on strike over Thanksgiving. Our informational picket signs said "Help us keep flying for you". So when we actually did go on strike, the public wasn't mad at us because we told them for the previous three months that this was what was going to happen. This made the company look bad. It made us look like Everyman USA, okay?

And the last thing, "Make Unity Pay By Labor Day", campaign, obviously we wanted a contract. We couldn't get it done. We told the Flight Attendants and the public, "we tried our best". We offered arbitration. The company doesn't like arbitration, remember? So, in the

end, we looked reasonable. We never bashed Bob Crandell, personally. We just said that we're trying to take care of our own. And we gave the public the facts, so in the end, we looked reasonable, and the company looked ... like the company.

At the end, we had public opinion on our side. We had all the support from many, many, many, unions. It was only a five day strike. Most unions didn't even have time to help us. And I feel sorry for Teamsters whose trucks for four days in a row, three trucks laying side by side, blocking the Calahan Tunnel. All having engine trouble all at the same time. Sometimes it's just tough out there. And that damn gridlock took four hours to unfurl in Boston. They couldn't get gas to airplanes in Houston. There was no cargo anywhere. American was the biggest cargo carrier in the world. So without the support of the other unions, and without the help of our belligerent, supremely arrogant management, who by the way, didn't even feel it necessary to plan for this strike.

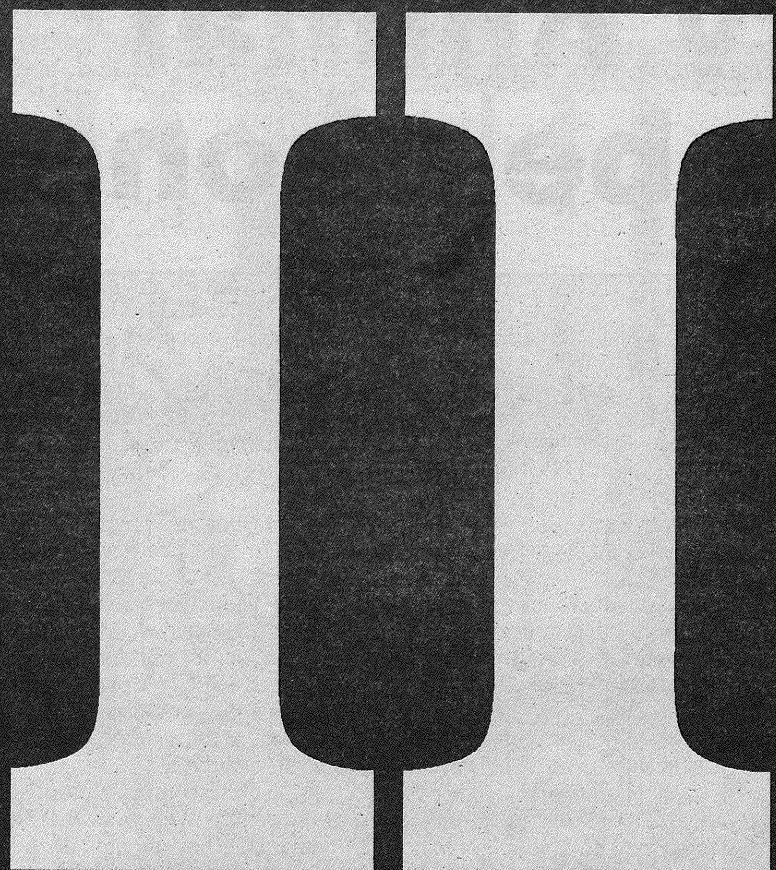
The company had three ways to stop it. They could've negotiated with us in good faith, that would have prevented a strike. They could have accepted binding arbitration when we proffered it, or when the National Mediation Board proffered it. That would have prevented a strike. Or the least they could've done was plan for the damn thing, and then maybe they could've survived.

But the company thought that they were dealing with with 21,000 Flight Attendants. They thought that they were dealing with a weak, whimpy, little union that had never been on strike before, and surely couldn't pull it off. They didn't even spend a dime training a real replacement. And so when 20,000 Flight Attendants didn't show up for work one day, the company had a hell of a mess on their hands. And for five days our strike actually grew stronger while the company lost \$210 million dollars. Which is a whole lot more than we had been arguing about at the bargaining table.

And so what we're here to tell you is that if you'll take some of the companies marketing tactics that they use to get their customers ... if you'll take traditional union tactics but use words that people understand today ... not all people are going to hear a word the same way I or any of you hear something, because you're here, you know, you believe. The job that we all have today is to get people that don't know or won't listen or don't care, to believe. So talk to them like they think, and then you can get them on your side. And for the people at Staley, and for the people in the Teamsters, for the Flight Attendants at American, for everybody that's just struggling to make a decent living, the main thing I want you to know before we leave is that, we had no business winning, we had no business taking on Bob Crandell and making a blithering idiot out of him, across the nation on TV for five days. But we did it. And we did it because the way they treated us for so long, the Flight Attendants finally said "I'm not going to take it anymore".

And you know what? The best thing out of this whole strike, is after the strike was over, after ten years of hearing "You are not important, we can replace you in a heart beat". You should see the way the Flight Attendants walk now. They've got their chins up. They got their chests out, and they are proud. If nothing else happened. If we didn't even get a new contract, just being involved in seeing 21,000, mostly women, Flight Attendants who felt not important and easily replaceable by their company. To see the pride that these union members have. And believe me, these union pins, they are priceless. You can't find a Flight Attendant without one. If you're a union rep., how many times have you had members calling you up saying "Oh my god, I sign in, in four hours and my union pin broke in the washing machine I got to get another union pin before I go to work. Can I come by and get one how do I get one in Chicago?" I mean they are freaked out with the idea that they don't have their pin on. So to see that they are that proud makes me think that whatever you folks are up against you can over come if you just remember that "Unity Pays". Thank you very much.

MENACE



SOCIETY

Wage Slave World News

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

MAY, 1994

VOL. 5, NO. 1



LAME KIRKLAND ON THE LAM!

Notorious labor leader escapes after arrest

**DEMOCRATS
ARE FAKE!
ASTONISHING
PHOTOS INSIDE!**

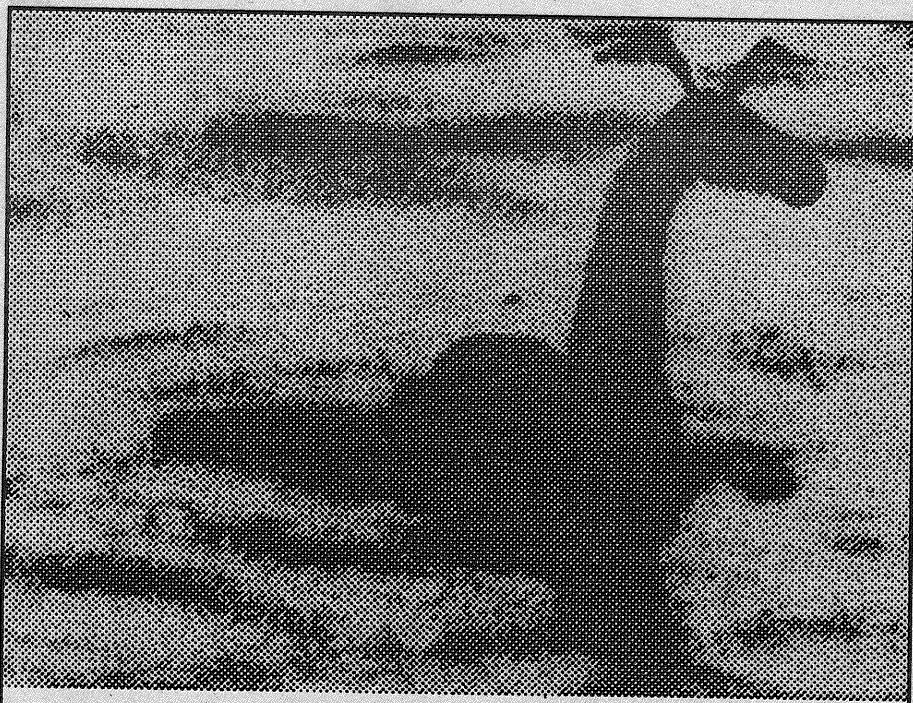
**UAW
DOES
VEGAS**

**FUN THINGS TO DO DURING THE
JOBLESS RECOVERY**

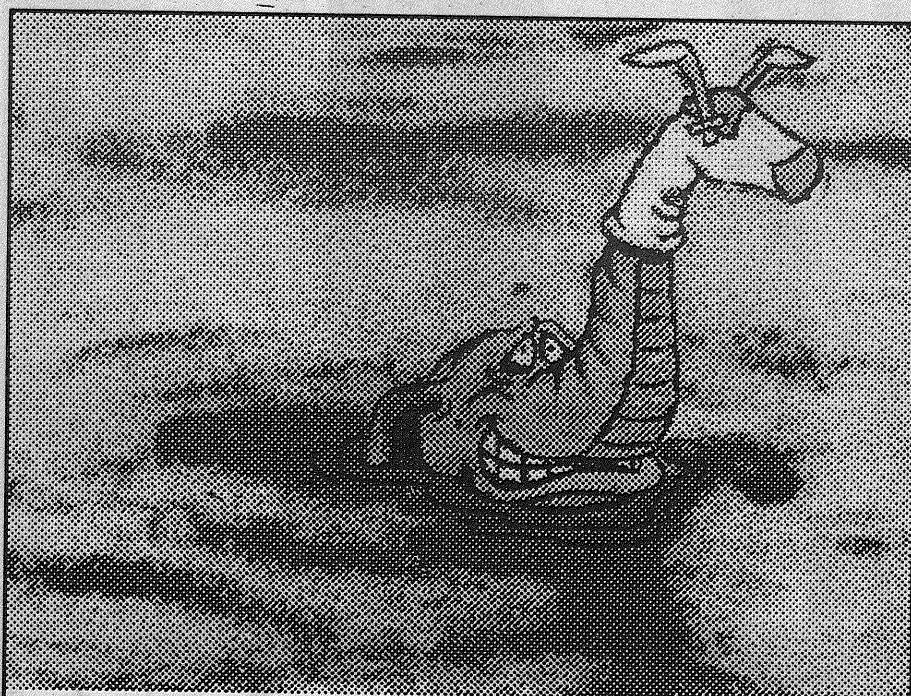
GREATEST HOAX OF THE 20TH CENTURY!

Democrats are fakes!

"People's Party Animal" photo found to be phoney!



The "People's Party Animal" turns out to be...



...a Republican "Job Less Monster."

WASHINGTON - A team of top economic researchers has discovered that the famous 1932 photograph of the Democratic Party diving to rescue the working class is a fake!

Leading political experts were hired by the **WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS** to determine if the Democratic Party is, in fact, the party of the working class. Ever since this famous photo of the "People's Party Animal" racing to rescue the work-

ing class from capitalist exploitation was released in 1932 workers believed that the Democrats were the "People's Party."

Boyd Alastair and Martin David of the Wage Slave Project in Washington, DC say the phoney photo is really that of a Republican elephant with a sock over his nose. Alastair and David call it "one of the greatest hoaxes of the 20th century."

Officials at the Democratic National Committee deny that the

photo is a hoax and claim that the Democrat Party is still the party of working people. As evidence they point to the Jobs Summit that Democratic President Clinton held this March in Detroit where top labor and commerce officials decided to do nothing about the worldwide unemployment crisis.

The researchers say that the photo was part of a plot to fool American workers into thinking that the U\$A is really a two party system. "The Democrats fooled

people into believing that they were the working class party opposing the corporate Republican party. This worked for over sixty years until we discovered that the phoney photo is nothing more than the silhouette of a Republican Job Less Monster," said Mr. Alastair.

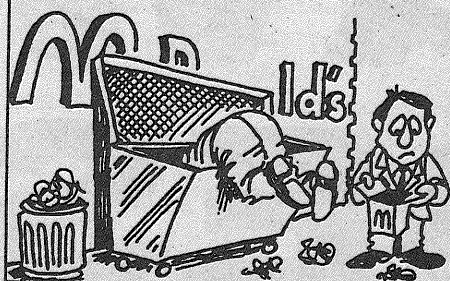
The "People's Party Animal" legend dates back to the New Deal era of Franklin Roosevelt, when laws legalizing the right to organize unions were passed to fight the Great Depression.

OUR COUNTRY IS RUN BY A BUNCH OF OXYMORONS DEPT.

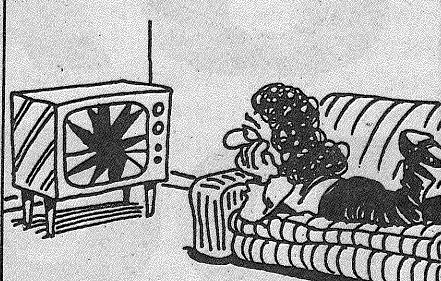
Government and business have recently declared the recession over. We are now enjoying a "jobless recovery." This simply means that we get the joblessness and corporations get the recovery. So, in the spirit of this contradiction, we offer some fun things to do during the...

JOBLESS RECOVERY

Enjoy a
FOODLESS HAPPY MEAL...



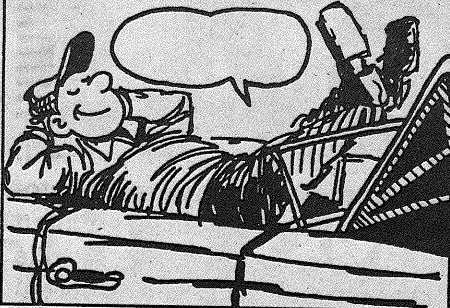
Watch a
PICTURELESS TV...



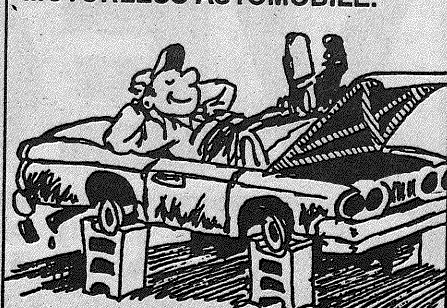
Invite your friends to a
HOMELESS HOUSEWARMING...



Listen to a
SOUNDLESS STEREO...



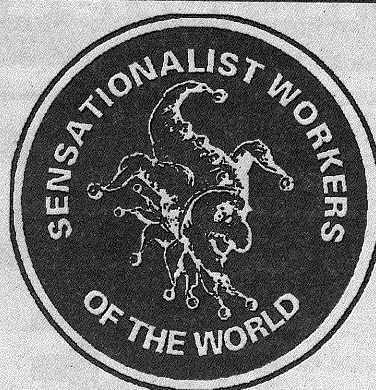
...in your
MOTORLESS AUTOMOBILE.



Express your gratitude to the
BRAINLESS GENIUS
who came up with the term
JOBLESS RECOVERY!



WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS

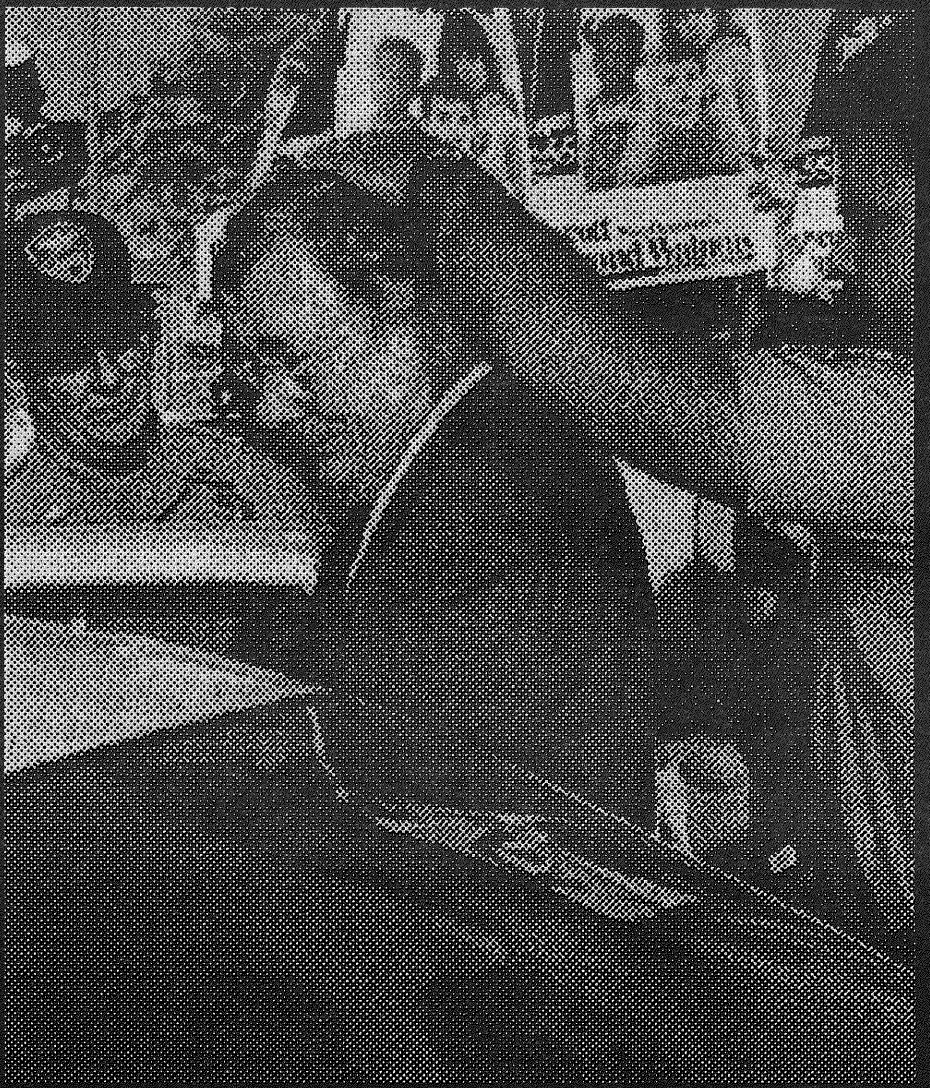


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LAME ON THE LAM!



LABOR LEADER ESCAPES ARREST!

by ZACK "THE HACK" NAUGHT
Special to the Wage Slave

MIAMI -- Federal agents are in hot pursuit of AFL-CIO President Lame "Krazy Legs" Kirkland following his brazen break-out from the Dade County Jail. Brandishing union buttons and pickett signs, the at-large labor leader is considered "armed and harmless."

Kirkland went on the lam February 23 just two hours following his arrest for suspicion of trespassing. Feigning stomach cramps and yelling, "Youse lousy screws make me puke," Kirkland was transferred from a holding cell to the infirmary where he k.o.'d a copper with a bedpan, stole a badge and uniform, hijacked a gurney and led police on a high speed chase to a downtown donut shop where he vanished among a baker's dozen of police officers on coffee break.

Prior to his arrest, Kirkland and other union bosses had been holed up in their hide-out at Bal Harbour, Fla., for the Federation's annual executive council conclave, where they devised a devious plot to disrupt job creating commerce. Vowing to "make the masters squeal," Kirkland lured the lawless labor lords to an Entenmann's Bakery plant in Miami where they staged a daring daytime demonstration protesting pastries made with boycotted Diamond Walnuts.

According to a slew of shocked spectators, the unruly unionists -- for more than fifteen grueling minutes -- terrorized Entenmann's execs by chanting, "If you buy Diamond, you're nuts!"

"It was horrible!" cried

MENACE II SOCIETY

Entenmann's CEO Seymour Wuss. "Oh, the screams! Oh, the fear! Oh, the inhumanity! Arghhhhhh.....!" The terrified tycoon remains hospitalized and sedated for post traumatic stress syndrome.

Arrested with Kirkland on trespassing charges were Teamsters President Ron "The Don" Carey and Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union President "Freaky" Frank Hurt who were taken into custody for defiantly yelling at police, "You're not the boss of me!" After swearing to "not be naughty again," the remaining labor leaders were released on their own recognizance, pending trail.

Kirkland, however, was found to be "unrecognizable" and was ordered detained. Since his escape, he has managed to elude the massive manhunt launched by the FBI, the National Guard, the Daugh-

ters of the American Revolution and several Junior Achievement chapters across the U.S. He was last seen February 28 at a Memphis laundromat, washing out undies with Jimmy Hoffa. Authorities say they have reason to believe that he has since undergone reconstructive surgery and now carries forged papers identifying him as "Mrs. Doubtfire."

In an exclusive communique to the Wage Slave entitled "The Complacent Manifesto," Kirkland has claimed responsibility for a recent outbreak of activism among AFL-CIO affiliates, including tens of letters to Congress backing the

Clinton health care plan. He said he has neither remorse nor regret and will "kick buns" at Entenmann's to avenge his arrest.

Krazy Leg's crime spree has prompted a public outcry for a federal ban on union picketing, or, at minimum, a five-day waiting period. The waiting period is expected to receive enthusiastic AFL-CIO support.

The ban is opposed, however, by the powerful National Picket Association, a pro-picket lobbying and education group. According to an NPA spokesman: "When picket signs are outlawed, only outlaws will have picket signs."

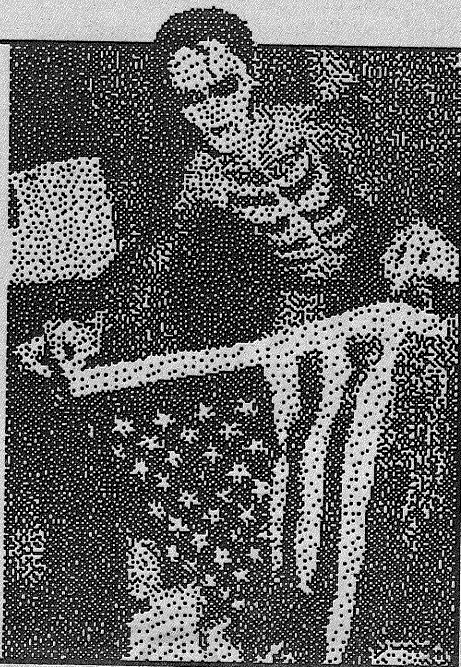
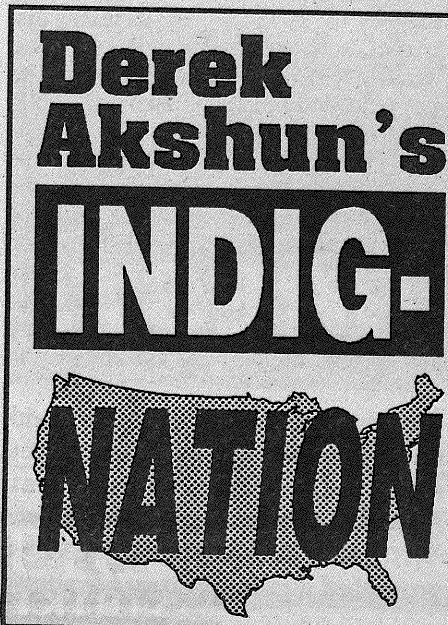


TEAMSTERS President Ron "The Don" Carey was arrested with AFL-CIO President Lame Kirkland. Carey has established a notorious reputation as one of labor's leading law breakers. In addition to his recent arrest for trespassing, Carey called an "illegal" strike against UPS on February 7 over safety issues. (Artist's conception)

World Wide Class War

Lucy Parsons, even in old age, would tell crowds "what I want you to do is wait outside the homes of the rich with guns and knives and when they come out, kill them." One wonders, on counting up the costs our class has paid for the fortunes of the rich, why more people haven't taken Lucy up on her suggestion. Recently Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam have been front and center on magazine covers and TV news as the corporate media fall all over themselves to point out that there is race hatred in Amerika, and some of it is black vs. white. Corporate media slam the bow-tied NoI in our faces as the source of racism. African-American politicians are forced to disavow African-American religious leaders.

There's something wrong with this picture. White politicians and corporados make policy, law and money out of a racism much more powerful and dangerous than Farrakhan's. Who can doubt that hating the oppressor is a reasonable reaction in an oppressive society? We can reject the hatred in Farrakhan's message and still appreciate that it



finds receptive ears among communities pillaged and plundered by a racist, classist, misogynist society. Style or substance, the lyrics of rap music abound with references to Nation of Islam teachings. White America would do well to try to understand what is going on. No Newsweek or Time expose of the fact that this entire society was built on racism - stolen land, slaves, genocide of the native peoples. No white politicians forced to apologize for racism from their colleagues. No Newsweek or Time cover extravaganza on the real problems facing U\$ society, the villains Lucy Parsons pointed out.

Meanwhile in Chicago teachers in the city's adult education program are fighting wage concessions and cutbacks in service for adults needing GED, English as Second Language, and programs to make up for failures of the underfunded city school system. "The press and the school board didn't pay attention until we stormed them with a Rainbow Coalition of teachers of every color, banging on the doors and being impossible to ignore," says one teacher. The teachers challenged the mega-millionaire in charge with charges that the Chicago education system is being run in a way that keeps people uneducated so there will be more folks to take low wage jobs. Our work is important to the people we serve, say the teachers. It's the rich that can do without it.

In Decatur Illinois the lockout of chemical workers at the Staley plant drags on. The Caterpillar workers are in their second year without a contract. Rubber workers at Firestone and chemical workers at Archer Daniel Midlands are entering contract negotiations with corporados hell bent on driving all into global economic total devastation. Mid-America, "middle class", middle of the road folks are the middle of the bulls eye for budget slashing, profit pumping, corporate pirates. "We realized we needed nothing less than a labor movement to support us. We are at the front lines. We need to give and get solidarity," says locked-out Staley worker Dan Lane. Since being fired a year ago for concerted, protected, direct action, Lane has spent much of the last year on the road. Traveling among union halls and community meetings in the midwest the AIW-UPIU Local 837 "Road Warriors" have raised money to survive, and consciousness to build a new union movement. The mainstream labor bureaucracies are like children who wandered away from home and were raised by sheep. They don't know any other path than compromise with the shepherds who steal wool and lead us to the slaughter. There is a war on. A world wide war to drive peasants and land-based peoples into the cash economy at one tenth or one hundredth the wages of developed countries. A world wide war to drive us in industrialized consumer countries into poverty, hatred and desperation.

There is a war on. A world wide war that is killing the life support

UAW Reps do Vegas

by Mort Windimer

The odds for Ford workers were not improved by the recent meeting of UAW (yoU Aint Working) Ford reps in Las Vegas. The UAW Ford Council and company friends met jointly in the glitzy gambling capital. UAW local reps, elected and appointed, now meet annually with the company at various luxury spots around the country. The agenda is pro-company. In the good old days Ford Council meetings were where UAW reps strategized issues facing the workers. This year in Vegas all but one of the meetings included company representatives. Snake eyes for workers, but hey, we bet it paid off for the union reps. The Council did hold one session just for union people. Overworked auto workers might think a union-only session would deal with problems of forced overtime, speedup, work injury, layoffs, disinvestment, NATA and possible strike action to resolve these problems. What did the Las Vegas discussion center on? Primarily the "rights" of UAW appointed reps to their lifetime jobs, overtime perks, and other items of self interest. UAW Vice president and Ford Department Director Ernest Lofton told the reps: "It seems that over the years since we have had this improved relationship between the union and management and we've gotten involved in some joint programs, which are working well and I don't think any of us would say that the joint programs are not beneficial to us but I think that over a period of time these joint programs have permeated some bad policies. It seems that in a number of Big Three locations, union members are periodically using for extended periods of time weekly, monthly, every other month or so, company vehicles. Cars and trucks for their personal use. That is the easiest way probably, to be removed from office, if it can be proven, that I can think of."

UAW lawyer Jay Whitman explained to the assembled Ford reps that it is neither legal or right to accept cars for free from the company. Last year Whitman told the Council that it's not legal or right to accept money from Fords for hours they didn't work. It was learned at that time that many local union reps around the country were making over \$100,000 yearly - as much as \$160,000 at GM and \$140,000 at Ford.

Meanwhile at the St. Paul Ford plant, autoworkers are being threatened with discharge for buying Ford cars. The company is demanding that workers pay Ford directly any discounts they negotiated at the dealer. Taking bribes, favors, money and goods from the company is a violation of the UAW's own Ethical Practices Codes. To date there's been no mention of holding the reps accountable under the UAW's own rules. Got the UAW strategy straight? Union reps can get free cars. Workers can get fired for buying cars. At the end of the Council meetings the reps gave a rousing cheer for jointness with management and went back to their extended tour of Las Vegas' major industry.

systems of the planet, commodifying every minute, putting a price on every pleasure and pain of daily life. A world wide class war. The front lines are in Decatur Illinois, Chiapas Mexico, Seoul Korea, Gdansk Poland. The front lines are at the unemployment office, the union hall, and your neighborhood. There are no conscientious objectors, no deferments, no ways out of this war. It is class war. "They" tell us this is peace, even as they assault us. There is no middle ground. No polite negotiations out of it. You were enlisted at birth. Can we win? Who knows. I do know we have no choice but to fight.

the situation of workers is now as it was then

The formation of the IWW in 1905 sowed the seed of Industrial Unionism. The IWW was outlawed in Western Canada in 1917 under the Federal War Measures Act. Fanned by the flames of discontent the One Big Union Movement arose. The OBU became the vanguard of the Winnipeg Labour Movement. Following the formation of the OBU, in Calgary in early 1919, Winnipeg workers led a series of General Strikes in Western Canada. As we are now celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the 1919 General Strike we realize the essential situation of workers is now as it was then.

The technology workers created is being used against them. Instead of providing benefits to all, technology appropriated by the boss today threaten workers' very livelihoods. Working people must therefore reject the part-time and casual workforce being implemented by the boss, and demand full time pay and a reduced work week. Technology must create an improved quality of life for all: more for everyone, not all for a privileged few. Rather than bringing peace and prosperity through demilitarization, the end of the Cold War signaled the beginning of a New World Order based on intensified offensive militarism, racism and putting corporate greed above the interests of all humanity and the Earth itself. As the boss reaches across national borders to pit worker against worker we must remember our common interests:

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL
Winnipeg General Membership Branch

Why the General Strike Weapon

The workers have never liked to down tools. It means hard times for them. Many never have enough to live on. The strike takes away all their living. For this reason they strike only when they are driven to desperation.

Why then, it will be asked, do unions not have no direct disagreements of their own walk out with others who have a disagreement? Why do they join in a general strike.

To answer adequately this question would take a volume. But we can indicate the answer.

First, labor will not call a general strike on a question of wages alone. It wants a decent wage, but so far as we know, no general strike was ever called for this reason alone.

A year ago the right of the firemen and police to organize was challenged, and labor by a very gradual process brought out one union after the other until the unions concerned were recognized.

This year the issue arose over the Metal Trades. The employers here were arrogant and defiant. The employers here were arrogant and defiant. They threatened to practically close up and the men might starve. Such was the essence of the matter.

In the case of the Building Trades workers it was the matter of wages. But not a mere matter of wages either. Their demands were acknowledged to be fair and reasonable. But the banking interests were behind the scenes, and the employers were not free to pay the reasonable wage. Thus labor was face to face with a wage crisis that had never before appeared. It was a straight demand on the

part of our financial barons that the workers should work for less than a living wage, while they piled up more millions. That was why the men involved struck work. That is — they just stopped working on those terms.

A couple of weeks sufficed to demonstrate that the employers had determined that they would not run the foundries or erect buildings, and the workers were faced with the alternatives of going on under impossible conditions or calling the whole force of labor to their assistance.

They did the latter. Will those who oppose the general strike say that there was a better way? Will they say that labor had any alternative? But others suffer besides the original parties, they say. That is true. But, is labor responsible for that? Is it not the financial autocrats and barons who are responsible? The answer is clear. Labor has no choice. Moreover, for thousands of workers to stop work and lose their wages in the interests of others is the highest form of brotherhood. It cannot be condemned.

If the general public is so considerably inconvenienced when labor ceases to work, is it not convincingly clear that it is the business of all the people to see that labor gets such a wage and such working conditions as tend to contentment and efficiency? Yet, when was the public interested in labor? When did they do a tap to help get justice for the worker? To ask is to answer the question.

Western Labor News
Winnipeg
May 28, 1919

Winnipeg General Strike of 1919

The basic causes of the Winnipeg General Strike were much the same as those which led to the formation of the One Big Union: disillusionment with the war, unsettled economic conditions including widespread unemployment and inflation, broken government war-time promises, and generally the wave of radicalism that swept Canada and the world following the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The immediate cause of the General Strike was the refusal of Winnipeg employers to negotiate with councils of the metal trades and building trades. These workers took strike action and a demand grew quickly for a general strike to back them up. A large majority of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council, which represented most unions in the area, voted for a general strike. The strike ballot included demands for the eight hour day, a living wage, the right to organize and union recognition.

The strike officially began on May 15 with practically all of Winnipeg's 12,000 organized workers taking part plus another 12,000 unorganized workers. Within 48 hours the number of strikers

grew to 35,000. Everything in the city was tied up, even the police went on strike.

The strike was led by a Central Strike Committee of 300 made up of three delegates from each affiliated and participating trade union local. Sub-committees were established to take care of organization, food, the press, light, water, and so on. Nothing moved without the permission of the Strike Committee.

The employers retaliated by organizing a vigilante group called a Citizens' Committee, as well as a volunteer strike-breaking militia of between 3,000 and 5,000 members. Ottawa rushed in troops, machine guns, and extra RCMP. The employers and their politicians in all three levels of government raised the cry that Winnipeg was under "red rule" that a "Soviet Republic" had been set up and similar scare stories. City Council hired special constables, who proved to be goons in uniform, to replace the striking police.

Returned veterans gave their support to the strike with demonstrations, some of them 10,000 strong.

On June 9, a gathering of strikers and

1919 A YEAR OF INSURGENCY

Periodically, diverse groups of people lunge for freedom. Different issues, different tactics, 1919 was like 1848 and 1968: an insurgency year when the rank and file revolted. In 1919, in Russia the Czar had been overthrown and for two years the Reds had successfully resisted the Whites. In Ireland, Korea and India anti-colonial movements resisted colonial powers. Across the US strikes erupted, many of them wildcats, strikes opposed as much by union leaders as by bosses.

In January, 35,000 Seattle shipyard workers struck. Swiftly the shipyard strike turned into a five day citywide general strike, coordinated by a General Strike Committee. The laundry workers agreed to keep one shop open to handle hospital laundry, fire fighters agreed to stay on the job, garbage collectors agreed to pick up wet garbage but not ashes or paper and the retail clerks agreed to sell drug prescriptions. Later that year, Seattle dockworkers refused to handle arms and munitions that were to be sent to counter-revolutionaries in Siberia, and beat up the scabs who tried to load them.

In April 1919 the railroad workers struck, for the first time since the federal governments suppression of the Pullman strike in 1894. The strike spread coast to coast, with the strikers organizing several associations to coordinate the strike which was bitterly opposed by the officials of the rail unions. The strike was ended by a combination of repression and concession.

On July 4 strikes were held across the

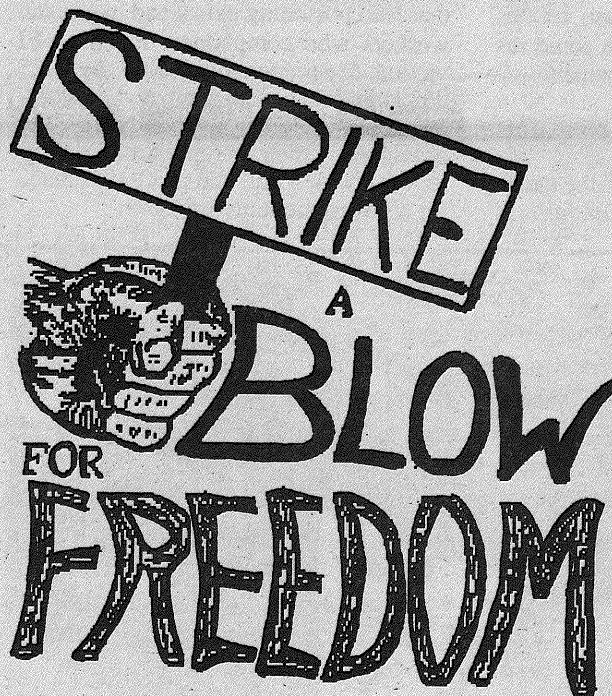
US in protest of the imprisonment of Tom Mooney, a labor leader framed on a bomb charge several years earlier in San Francisco. In Illinois, thousands of coal miners found themselves fined by their union for taking part in the wildcat Mooney strike. The workers walked out again in protest of the penalty; the strike became a protest of the contract under which the miners were working. Half of the 90,000 Illinois miners joined in.

Unionism in the iron and steel industry had been quiescent since the crushing of the Homestead strike in 1892. As labor grew scarce during WWI, workers staged walk outs almost spontaneously. After the war, the workers having expected to taste some of the "fruits of democracy" that war time propaganda made so much of, rebelled. Some 325,000 workers walked out in September, bringing the steel industry to a standstill, until starvation and repression crushed the strike.

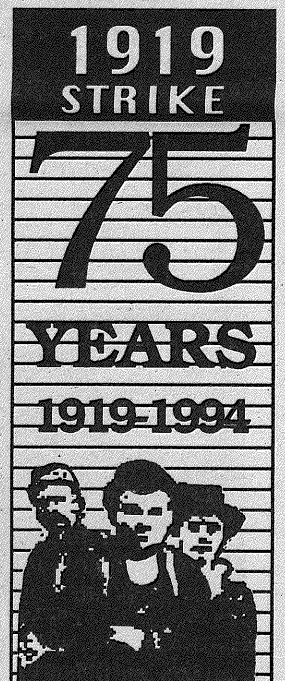
After the Armistice, the 8-hour movement swept the New England textile districts. The workers at Lawrence, Mass. decided to strike for shorter hours and no pay reduction and were joined by 120,000 other textile workers.

The workers militancy brought the force of the government down on the labor movement, as well as the forces of the management and the established union leadership which saw the wildcat undermining their control. The workers' challenge to the system was beaten back, and the decade of the 1920s saw a decay in unionism.

ROCKY REFUSENIK SAYS:



TO MAY DAY!!!!!!!!!!!!



ex-servicemen was attacked by the RCMP and City Council's special police. The strikers and veterans fought off all attacks, retaining possession of the streets.

Support for the strike had been growing steadily across the country with sympathy strikes all over the west and as far east as Cape Breton.

Failing to break the strike by attacks on meetings or by wild charges about Bolsheviks being in control of Winnipeg, the federal government ordered the leaders of the strike arrested. The arrests were carried out in the middle of the night on June 17. Police also wrecked the Trades and Labor Temple and destroyed its files and records.

Special legislation was rushed through parliament in 40 minutes to make arrests possible. The legislation later became known as Section 98 of the Criminal Code. It gave the government and police sweeping powers to arrest labor and socialist leaders and to ban labor organization.

Then, four days later, when on June 21 the Winnipeg workers organized a silent protest parade, the RCMP and spe-

cial police attacked in full force with clubs and guns, determined to smash the strike by force once and for all. Two citizens were killed by the police, over 30 injured and over 100 arrested.

On June 26, the strike was called off. The strike had been opposed not only by the employers, the governments the controlled, the police and the media. U.S. head offices of international unions also came out against the strike and backed up the government efforts to smash it. In some cases they ordered their members to go back to work while the strike was on or be expelled from the union and lose their jobs. For the most part their efforts were unsuccessful. They only helped to convince the unionists that their international unions were boss-controlled and that a union movement under the control of the rank and file was needed.

from:
Work and Wages!, Ben Swankey and Jean Evans Sheils, Published by Union Research Bureau October 1977

Injured Workers take on the Medical Elite

Workers Bodies – Workers Health

Environmental Illness activist Wade Collins made a presentation on his research on his tour in Santa Cruz in late January, thanks to the work of FW Matt Miscreant. Wade himself became affected by MCS in Minneapolis four years ago, one week after a garbage incinerator near his house became operational. Since then, he has been unable to digest most foods except for fruits & some vegetables, has had chronic swollen lymph nodes, chronic fatigue, disrupted sleep patterns, and reactions to electromagnetic radiation.

His experiences with the medical profession underscores the consistent pattern of denial with which victims of EI/ Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) have been treated. "The first doctor I saw referred me to a psychiatrist, and the second sent me some xeroxed pages from the Bible, with certain passages highlighted." Extreme as this seems, Wade has found that these experiences are consistent with official treatment of EI victims. He notes that one 1990 study concluded that EI victims are "neurotically fearful of chemicals," that they "are experiencing a panic reaction." Another study concludes that MCS is a "medical cult," and a recent AMA journal emphasized that the EI phenomenon is "nothing to worry about."

Meanwhile, in the intervening four years, Wade has been unable to work and has lived out of his car. By the summer of 1993, he experienced his lowest moments. "I realized that nobody was going to validate what I was going through, or act on that ... [they] were just going to let me die." To overcome this despair, he decided to act. "I decided to do some research, to find out why this is happening." He decided to make EI a political issue in his own life by going on tour to present his findings.

What he discovered is that the medical profession's denial of his condition is

rooted in historical developments & attitudes as old as Aristotle that have taken a particularly pernicious form with the development of a medical profession aligned with the ruling class. "Bodies are not experienced naturally ... ideas play a role in how we experience our bodies, and those are affected by the needs of the dominant forces of society."

In analyzing the needs of these dominant forces, Wade discovered parallels between the ruling class's interpretation of women's bodies & the bodies of workers. Noting that most EI victims are women, Wade refers to Aristotle, who once said, "We should look upon the woman's body as a deformity, though one that occurs naturally..." This attitude persists in our time, as women are not trusted as much as men are when they say something about their bodies, and continue to be demeaned by labels such as irrational & hysterical, and by attitudes that generally discredit them as reliable sources of the truth. Wade asserts that new diagnoses such as PMS reinforce such tendencies by allowing the complaints of women which include EI symptoms to be summarily dismissed by attributing it to physiological changes of women's bodies—Aristotle's "deformity"—rather than to their conditions under capitalist patriarchy.

Wade draws a parallel between this and what happened over lead poisoning claims by workers early this century. In 1917 a miner filed the first compensation claim over lead poisoning in Australia. The response of the company was to deny that lead poisoning exists and to fire the workers who complained, much as EI victims experience today. Still, by 1925 261 complaints were filed, and as workers made steady gains in winning as they organized in their communities net profits were wiped out, and a call was made for a government investigation

Then the government physicians came, and immediately denied two-thirds of the claims, using arguments which persist today, such as claiming that the illness is part of a natural, 'healthy' acclimation to lead, that some workers are "genetically susceptible" to lead, and that other factors such as age are related. For those they could not dismiss on these grounds they claimed that the lifestyles of the largest ethnic groups in the company's labor force, southern Europeans in this case, are responsible, something reminiscent of the official line on homosexuals & the AIDS epidemic.

Hence the now well-established reality of lead poisoning was reinterpreted by the medical profession to be the result of other things. That this serves the interest of the company's profits over the welfare of its workers cannot be denied. "Doctors are not our friends," Wade asserts, "they are an institution to watch our bodies, to reinterpret them so they don't become political." Hence the real complaints of the workers are dismissed, as women's complaints so often are, by denying the validity of what the victims know about their own bodies, as the miners knew the lead was poisoning them. By 1932 the number of lead poisoning claims was down to twelve.

In the 1970's the women's & workers' issues intersected in the semiconductor industry, one of the world's most toxic manufacturing processes. When some women workers began complaining of EI symptoms, management denied that the workers' daily exposure to the chemicals used was a hazard, and the medical profession announced a new "mass psychogenic illness," claiming these women smell something & imagine they have a reaction. "This is drawing on the historical construct of women as unstable," says Collins; "it all changed when a male supervisor got sick. Then it became a

'fume problem'."

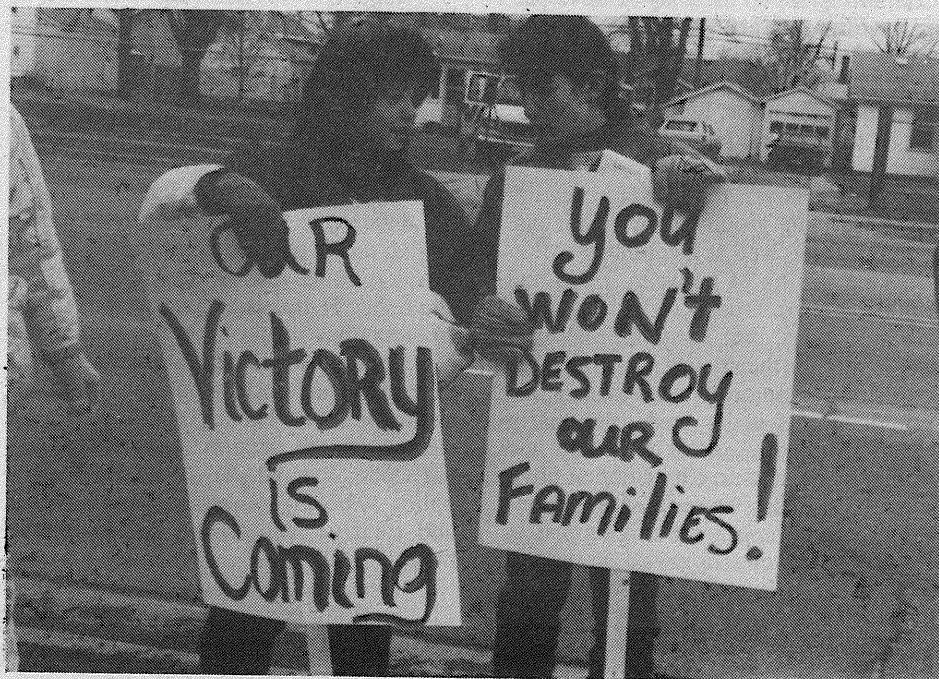
Wade notes that the treatment for these "psychogenic" illnesses is very much like the treatments used on any free-thinking woman since before the obliteration of the woman healers in the fifteenth century during the witch burnings up through the twentieth: isolation, mind-numbing drugs, reeducation, all of which have served well in the past as obstacles to any kind of political organizing or of other people seeing what is happening. It is here that Wade discovered why his condition is denied.

"It challenges the knowledge the ruling class has constructed for workers' bodies." It threatens to discredit the lie of capitalism that the conditions workers are exposed to are always safe & healthy, and that it has the interests of everyone, workers included, at heart.

When asked what needs to be done, Wade does not mince words: "Basically we need a revolution." He calls for a political movement to do away with all forms of domination, which includes reclaiming the validity & worth of our bodies & our own knowledge of them. He calls for everyone to expand our knowledge about healing ourselves through networking & selfeducation. He calls for a persistent challenge to medical authority as the arbiter of truth about our bodies & what is good for us. He advocates creating & expanding health collectives as well as networks, as has been successful in support of AIDS patients. Ultimately Wade sees the problem of EI as systemic, however, and that these suggestions can only be part of a greater movement to end all domination. Only when each individual is empowered to determine the conditions under which he or she lives & works can we have a society with the interests of everyone at heart.



The corporate plan of Staley and its parent company Tate & Lyle PLC is to starve out the chemical workers of Decatur. They need our solidarity. Send them money. Spread the news.



**Miller Beer
Brachs Candy
& Smuckers
are Staleys
biggest customers.**

**Boycott them.
And spread the
boycotts.**

Reshaping the Debate About Public Service & Public Workers

Private Interest, Public Spending: Balanced-Budget Conservatism and the Fiscal Crisis, by Sidney Plotkin and William Scheuerman. South End Press (116 St. Botolph St., Boston MA 02116), 1994, \$16.

Public sector workers took a beating in the 1980s, as state governments tried to solve their financial crises by layoffs, freezing wages and speed-ups. *Private Interest, Public Spending* compares the way three states (California, New Jersey and New York) dealt with the crisis, demonstrating that both Democrats and Republicans balanced state budgets on the backs of poor people, students and other recipients of public services, and government workers. The authors, both political scientists (Scheuerman is also president of the American Federation of Teachers local representing faculty at the State University of New York), offer a compelling indictment of Democrat-Republican policies and some thoughts for how a movement capable of turning them around might be built.

The states' fiscal crisis resulted from several factors: the national recession, cutbacks in federal government aid, and corporations; successful efforts to enroll states in a bidding war where they offered tax reductions or outright gifts in an effort to snatch jobs away from neighboring states. As the authors note, these giveaways to business are expensive and ultimately futile, and have the effect of shifting the tax burden from corporations and the rich to workers. For example, the corporate share of local property tax revenues plummeted from 45 percent in 1957 to just 16 percent in 1987 (p. 22). As corporations escape paying taxes states are forced to raise taxes on the rest of us. But there is only so much we can afford to pay, and so the result is what Scheuerman and Plotkin term "balanced-budget conservatism": higher taxes for workers, lower taxes for the rich, fewer social services for everyone, and attacks on public sector workers.

Although the book is not without its flaws (it twice refers, in passing, to the International Workers of the World and confuses Ypsilanti, Michigan with Flint), it contains a wealth of data on the fundamental injustices of our economic system; injustices which form the backdrop to government taxing and spending policies (which, in turn, further exacerbate the problem). The basic structure of American economic inequality remained unchanged from 1900 to 1960 (though the bottom half held slightly less of the national wealth at the end of this period than they had at its start), but since then the rich have been getting richer at an ever-faster rate. Today, the poorest 90 percent (an odd concept) of the population have only about a fourth of the country's wealth. Hard pressed to get by,

workers are easy prey for the apostles of tax cuts.

But while workers justifiably resist paying higher taxes, it is very difficult to raise taxes on corporations or the rich. Far from agreeing to higher taxes, employers threaten to shut down operations altogether if their taxes aren't cut. Bond-rating firms keep a watchful eye on state finances, insisting that social services be pared to the bone in the name of "fiscal responsibility." And so the government turns on its workers, on students, on the sick and the poor.

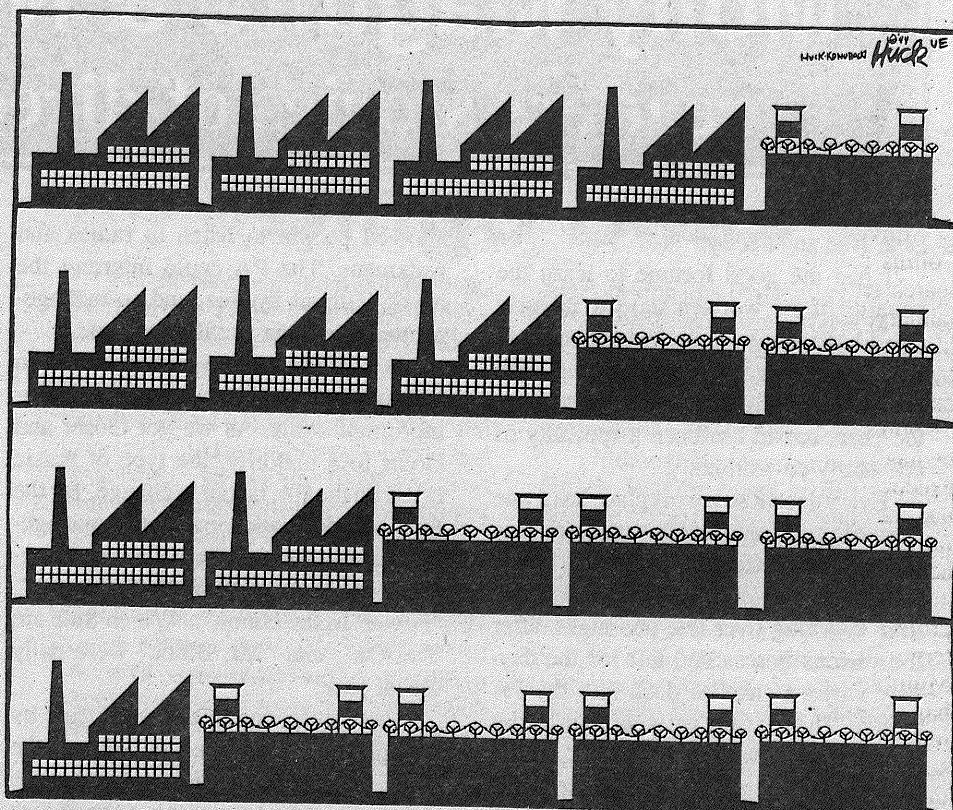
Plotkin and Scheuerman chose New Jersey, California and New York to demonstrate three different approaches politicians have taken in response to the inevitable fiscal crisis. In California, both Democrats and Republicans embraced fiscal conservatism with disastrous consequences for schools and other social services. In New Jersey, the Democrats originally attempted to raise taxes on the rich in order to increase school spending. But they also raised the sales tax, sparking a tax revolt that led to massive tax cuts all around and is decimating human services.

New York's Governor Cuomo's balancing act receives the most attention. Cuomo was elected with strong union and liberal support, but quickly turned on his allies (who, after all, had nowhere else to go) to curry favor with big business by slashing taxes and government spending. Higher education, in particular, has paid a heavy price. Despite Cuomo's vicious attacks on social spending, he has somehow retained a favorable image among liberals. Thus, after discussing the devastating effects of Cuomo's policies the authors praise his astuteness: "The governor compromised with the anti-tax right, but he still held control. Unions are limping, not broken... Things could have turned out worse" (p. 217).

Indeed, we all might be dead—but the situation is quite bad enough. *Private Interests, Public Spending* suggests that suburbanization bears a major part of the blame. As a growing share of business and people escape the cities' authority, cities are left without the tax base to maintain their infrastructure and provide necessary social services. This touches off a downward spiral where increasing taxes and declining quality of life drive those who can afford to escape to the suburbs. However, there is little hope of reversing suburbanization and political fragmentation at this late date (even if it were clear that metropolis-wide taxing and service systems would be an improvement).

Which raises the question of how to turn things around.

Popular resistance is disorganized and fragmented—everyone struggles (and is defeated) alone. Coalition-building is



central to any hope of success, as is "liberat[ing] public debate from the shackles of balanced-budget conservatism." (p. 232) There is nothing intrinsically wrong with deficits (or with taxes), the authors argue, what matters are the purposes for which the money is spent. While most people want lower taxes and smaller government, surveys indicate that they often prefer tax increases to the loss of valued social services (such as education). Unions too often play into images of big government, however, by taking a jobs-centered rather than service-centered approach to the debate. Plotkin and Scheuerman argue that unions would do better to frame the debate in terms of the needs of students, welfare recipients, etc., and to build coalitions with those who benefit from these services.

So far so good. But in order to escape the escalating war of each against all, the authors argue for increased centralization at both the state and national levels, restructuring the federal government (in order to increase political accountability), and public financing of political campaigns. Such measures, they argue, are essential to facilitate popular control of the government, and thus permit economic policies that benefit the majority. They see public sector unions playing a vital role in building the political movement necessary to realize such changes, arguing that they are uniquely positioned (geographically, structurally, economically) to wage such a fight. "Public-sector unions can build, both within the states and nationally, a movement to resurrect an understanding of how indispensable the national government is to overall economic management... [They] know better than anyone else what fiscal domination does to the conditions and provision of

public service. No sector of the Left is better able to make the case for re-distributive federal economic policies than the employees left holding the bag of fiscally strapped local governments" (p. 251).

But this fundamentally misunderstands where power lies in our society. The corporations have not gained the upper hand by voting, or even through their dominance of the political process. Rather, it is their economic power—and their willingness to use it against the rest of us—that put them in charge. Workers around the world have squandered countless hours and billions of dollars trying to confront the bosses on the political field. In many countries (much of Western Europe, for example) this sort of social democratic politics captured the government and seemed for a time to offer real social benefits; but today the bosses are forcing "socialist" and conservative governments alike to knuckle under. Ultimately, it is economic, not political, power which commands. And there is no reason for us to cede the industrial battleground to the employing class—we are, after all, the ones whose work is indispensable.

Rather than squandering more resources pursuing the chimera of political action, public sector (and other) workers would do far better to build revolutionary industrial unions capable of fighting for our interests and dumping the exploiters off our backs. No doubt, the authors would say this is impractical under present circumstances. Certainly it will require a major effort. But it is no more difficult than the proposals offered in this book, and far more likely to yield lasting results.

Jon Bekken

Chicago Anarchists 1886

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Molly Maguire & Ned Ludd

readers stories of direct action

Dear Ned and Molly,

I had the good fortune to learn the benefits of the wooden shoe at an early age. I have also been lucky to have spent quite a number of years working with several other practioners of the art. Over the years music has been a specialty of one of my co-workers.

Every decent size workplace has some form of public address system. And this place was no different. Dave had a knack for wiring, and Einar had had an inspiration. Working over late one night, after the various bosses had left for the day, they wired a cassette deck into the PA system. The next day we were all taken by surprise when we came to work, and a nice uptempo reggae beat filled the workplace.

Everyone was soon bringing there tapes into play during the workday. Management couldn't think of a good reason to stop the public music. They already

allowed people to listen to radios and walkmans. The PA could interrupt the music without trouble, and so management allowed the situation to slide.

At the same time unbeknownst to Management, the workers had been signing union cards. As we got closer and closer to a majority, the type of music heard on the PA, began to change. By the time our delegation presented management with a demand for voluntary recognition of our union, "Solidarity Forever", "Power in the Union", "Which Side are You On", and "Mr. Block" were daily repeat cuts.

Since everyone in the workplace by now played at least one tape a day on the deck, managements attempt to remove the music, was viewed by everyone as blatant attack upon the union.

We won the union election by a 2-1 vote. The day after the vote when got to work we once again heard an uptempo

reggae beat coming over the PA.

We wore out several cassette decks in the years after that. Music was used as means to rally the union to action, a signal to a struggle that demanded our attention. It helped maintain morale in bad times, and inspired us to victory in more than one fight.



send stuff to:

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Who's Got the Goods?

by Andrew Willett

You can hardly turn anywhere these days without being reminded of how broke everyone is. You're broke, that's nothing new — and so are your friends and relatives. Your boss says he/she, the shop, store, company or whatever is broke too, so no raises.

Just when you're feeling grateful to your poor broke employers for keeping you around to provide them with profits, you read, hear and see that old Uncle Sam along with every other Aunt, Granddaddy and Big Brother in the family of nations is on a direct course towards financial crisis.

Hey! Wait a minute. Some things don't make sense in our mysterious universe, and this new world order of money trouble is an A-1 example. Let's pull our minds back a bit from the dollars and cents-less hurly-burly of the Mammon Zone for a moment.

I don't know about you, but I recall being told in grade school that money was invented to serve as an easily portable representation of goods and services. Now they tell us that everyone's got no cash, but they never explain how all the goods and services went missing.

Of course it would be silly to say there are no services. You and I and everyone we know has been serving most of our lives. Okay. Now we're getting somewhere. Half the mystery is solved. We've got a handle on the service; what about the goods? Where did they all slip away to? Don't look at me: I don't have 'em, nor do any of my serving friends.

A Mother-Big Warehouse...

Somewhere Around Here Let's see...

The servants (that's you, plus job) don't get the goods. Then where'd they go? Maybe the world just ran plumb out of 'em. Maybe not.

I'm constantly reminded on any boobtube that there is a "virtually real" cornucopia of goodies that I should wise up to and purchase against my services yet unperformed (whose "interest" does that "serve?"). From the look of things in the cathode realm and the bordering Mallands, there must be a mother-big warehouse chock-full of goods somewhere around here.

So you can get some of the goods, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg and you'll fret while you pay the bills that, with

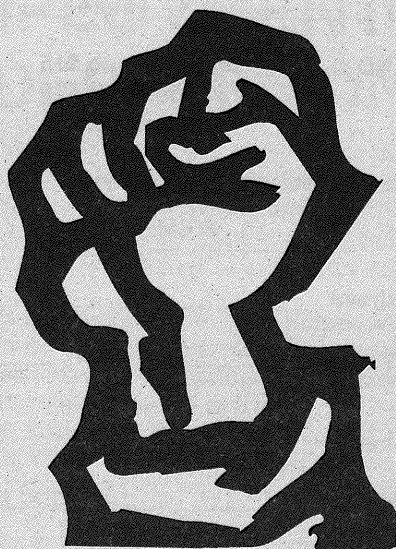
interest, keep you from being able to get many other goods.

Serve boss - get goods

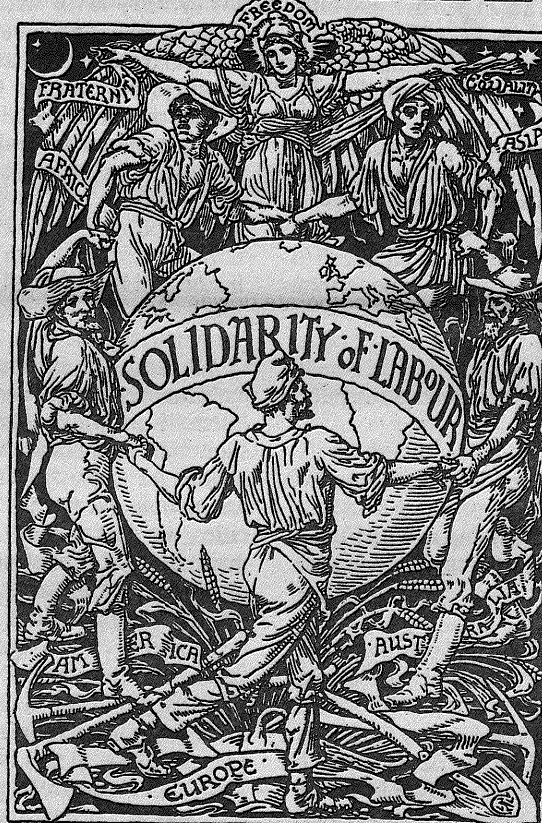
- serve more - get less...

Now that we've ascertained that considerable goods and services yet exist on our globe, we must speculate as to why everyone's broke. Something's bouncing around my brain and hoping it's not the latent effect of some radiation experiment I was never told of; I will assume it's a thought. I think that when every representative of the powers that be cries, "Broke!" it may not be exactly the case. More than one in the series of saintly philanthropic bosses I've served have deflected my polite requests for higher pay with "Broke!" while bald-facedly expanding the business. To be fair to the poor bosses, maybe new offices and outlets grow on trees. Who knows, maybe when they movethe shop to some place where workers are more cost-effectively skinned, they'll hand all the extra plunder over to those back home that they laid-off. Maybe not.

It seems sad but it's true: anyone, government or "private" who cries "Broke!" while wearing a gold watch and an Italian suit just doesn't want to share with you what he/she has stolen from you and your kids in advance. Time to ORGANIZE! Take out a little red IWW card. But don't hog it. It's not an invitation to a private party. Get out there and share it!



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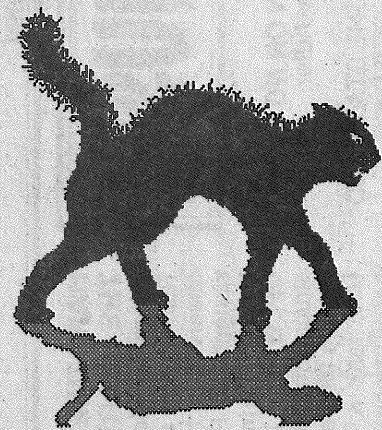
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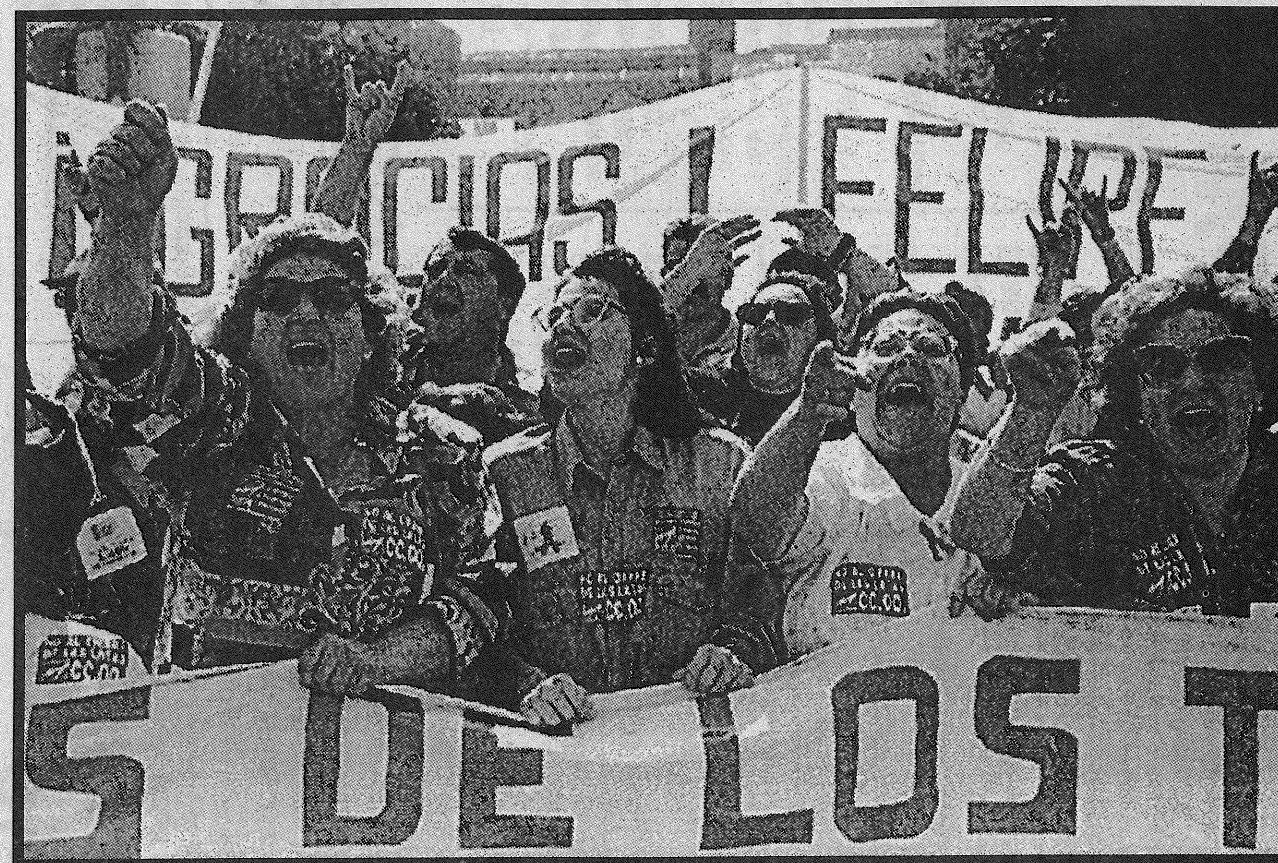
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